

THE TIMES

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Viruses could pass to people

Epidemic fears delay transplants from pigs

By JEREMY LAURENCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE first heart transplants from pigs to people have been delayed because ministers fear they might transmit potentially deadly viruses.

Scientists have recently proved that pig viruses can grow in human cells, and there is concern that while these might be harmless to the animal, they could provoke a lethal epidemic among people. HIV almost certainly came from animals, and strains of flu that have killed millions of people in pandemics this century originated in pigs and birds.

Tens of thousands of people are awaiting organs for transplant, but fewer than half are likely to receive the treatment they need unless transplants from animals are proved safe and effective. The Cambridge-based company Imutran, which has bred a herd of genetically modified pigs whose organs are not rejected by other species, had hoped to have carried out the first operations by now, but the Government is holding back approval.

Ministers who commissioned an inquiry into the procedure — known as xenotransplantation — last January were alarmed by the implications of the resultant report and have delayed publication until the middle of next month, while they consider their response.

The inquiry, chaired by Ian Kennedy, professor of medical law and ethics at King's College, London, is understood to have concluded that the benefits of animal transplants are so great and the shortage of human donors so serious that the procedure is ethically acceptable. It was, however, concerned about the potential risk if animal viruses were transmitted to the human population.

One member of the committee said: "There is a risk of passing on infections. This may turn out to be a bigger problem than the ethical issue. There was no great groundswell of opinion against using animal organs on ethical grounds. The difficulty is trying to make sure that no nasties get through the system."

Another member of the committee said that new evidence from the Institute of Cancer Research in London that pig viruses could move to people was worrying: "We've got to be very cautious."

Research by Robin Weiss, professor of virology at the institute, has shown that pig retroviruses can grow in human cells in the laboratory. Professor Weiss, who made his unpublished evidence available to the Kennedy committee, said: "Any pigs we use for transplants would have to be screened out very carefully for known viruses. The

concern is over the unknown viruses. The recipients of the organs might be prepared to take the risk. But what happens if a virus, when transmitted, becomes a human epidemic?"

"We have shown in our experiments here that there is a pig retrovirus that can grow in human cells in culture in the laboratory. We don't know if it is harmful or if pig organs could transmit it to humans. In terms of safety, we should be wise before the event. I am not against animal transplants, but I am in favour of going forward with due caution."

In Cambridge, Imutran said that it took safety issues seriously and had devised exhaustive tests to check for pig pathogens and retroviruses, but none had posed a risk to health. Heart valves and insulin from pigs had been used in the treatment of people for decades without any apparent problems and experiments over the past 12 years had shown that hearts and kidneys could be transplanted successfully from pigs to monkeys.

If given official approval, the potential market for animal transplants is huge. The American investment bank Salomon Brothers predicted last January that there could be 455,000 organ transplants from pigs a year by 2010, compared with the 45,000 human transplants carried out around the world in 1994, creating an industry worth \$6 billion a year.

Two months later, Imutran — which was founded by the Cambridge University immunologist David White and John Wallwork, director of transplantation at Papworth Hospital — was taken over by the Swiss-based multinational drugs firm Sandoz Pharma.

Donor shortage, page 2
Leading article, page 19



"I don't believe it, I've left my donor card at home again"

Condoms issued to jail inmates

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

CONDOMS are being issued in jails in England and Wales to prevent the spread of infection, Ann Widdecombe, the prisons minister, has admitted for the first time.

Doctors have been permitted to hand out condoms discreetly to inmates who ask for them to curb the risk of disease and prevent the spread of infection among prisoners.

A circular sent to all heads of health care and governors says that they have a duty of care to reduce the risk of disease caused by sexual

activity in 135 jails in England and Wales.

Miss Widdecombe is the first government minister to admit publicly that medical officers in the prison service are permitted to dispense condoms to inmates in jails.

"Our position is very straightforward. It is within the discretion of the responsible medical officers what they prescribe, whether it is medicine, condoms or treatments or anything else in each individual case", Miss Widdecombe says in an interview for *Focus*, the magazine for community drug and alcohol initiatives. The highly controversial

move comes in spite of opposition from the Prison Governors' Association and continued confusion over the legality of homosexual acts between inmates in jails.

A policy statement from the governors' association issued in 1994 stated that it could not advocate the provision of condoms or needles in jails at this stage "as it would condone criminality within the prison". Their position on the issue has not changed.

The statement added that the association, which represents about one thousand prison governors in prisons, wanted the legal status of

Continued on page 2, col 4

American plane makers agree \$13bn merger

By MARTIN BARROW

BOEING and McDonnell Douglas, the American aircraft manufacturers, have agreed to a \$13.3 billion merger to form the world's largest aerospace company. Their move poses a major challenge to Airbus Industrie, the European consortium.

The new company will have 200,000 employees, a share of more than 30 per cent of the world's commercial airline market, and a combined order book of more than \$100 billion. Annual sales will exceed \$50 billion.

The companies said that they did not expect serious anti-trust problems.

\$13 billion merger, page 44

Protest by gold medal shooters

Three shooting gold medalists have written to *The Times* urging the Government to exempt the national squad from laws being debated by the Lords today.

More than a hundred peers have threatened to rebel over the Firearms Amendment Bill. **Page 19**

First World War bodies found

The remains of 25 British soldiers who died in 1917 have been discovered in a grave near Arras, northern France.

Their dog-tags may identify some of the soldiers. Tunic buttons indicate that they served with the 13th Battalion Royal Fusiliers. **Page 5**

England beaten

England's cricketers suffered further embarrassment on their tour of Zimbabwe when they were beaten for the third time in 15 days, losing the first one-day international by two wickets at Queen's Club in Bulawayo. **Page 23**

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Tories face defeat as Unionists reject EU fish quota

By JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government was last night trying to head off a possible defeat in the Commons today after the Ulster Unionists warned that they would withdraw their support unless they won significant concessions on fishing quotas.

In its first test since losing its majority at the Barnsley East by-election last week, the Government is facing a close vote on the European Union fisheries policy, which it lost last year.

Tony Baldry, the fisheries minister, has spent the last few days trying to placate some of the Ulster Unionists by an undertaking that he will review the fishing quotas in the new year. He has also spoken to some of the Eurosceptic rebels who inflicted defeat on the Government last year.

But yesterday the Ulster Unionists signalled that they had not been bought off. Although David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader said his party would not act in "a capricious or irresponsible way" on key votes, it is understood that the party leaders decided over the weekend that they would defy the Government tonight. Both David Trimble, and John Taylor, his deputy, voted against last year.

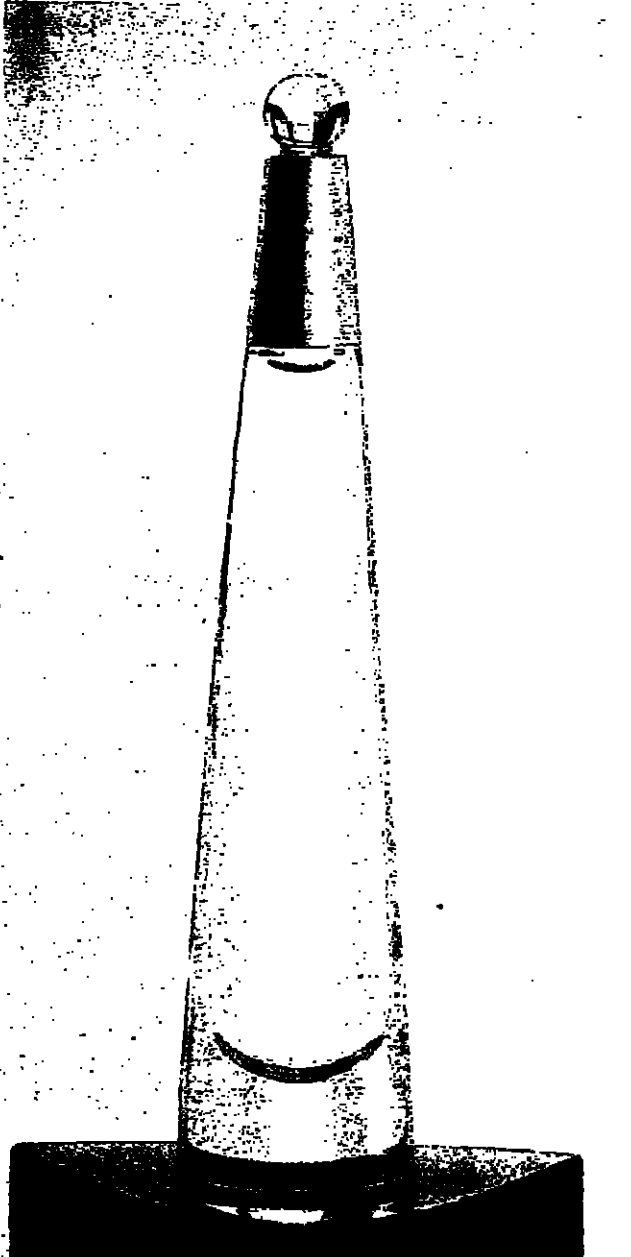
The nine Ulster Unionists are expected to take a final decision when they meet before today's debate. But some ministers hope that today's statement announcing a selective cull of over 100,000 cattle will prompt a change of heart, as Unionists have been pressing for urgent steps to lift the beef ban.

Mr Trimble said he was looking for assurances over

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Madonna, the star of *Evita*, arriving for the film's premiere in Los Angeles at the weekend



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Tories call for Easter election to scupper student vote

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

JOHN MAJOR is coming under strong pressure from Tory strategists to hold the general election on April 10 to prevent Labour from using the student vote to win important marginal seats.

Party strategists believe that an April 10 election would reduce the impact of Britain's one million students, who are likely to be at home for the Easter holidays in their parents' constituencies. Party strategists hope they would "waste" their votes in seats with large Tory or Labour majorities.

Officials have identified 12 marginal seats where students, who are more likely to back Labour, could out the sitting Tory MP. If the overall election result is close, they

believe these seats could help tip the balance in favour of the Government. The Prime Minister has said that the Government might have to go to the polls before his preferred date of May 1.

While Tory officials know that it is almost impossible to calculate the consequences of students voting at home, they can predict which of their marginal seats have large student populations that could tip the balance against the Tory candidate.

Several Tory MPs in these seats recognise that they secured their small majorities because the last election in 1992 was held on April 9 when many students were at home. At the same time, the Tories lost

MARGINALS

Marginal Tory seats where students could affect the vote:
 Portsmouth South
 Luton South
 Coventry South West
 Loughborough
 Brighton Pavilion
 Leeds North West
 Stirling
 Oxford West and Abingdon
 Exeter
 Southampton Test

some strongholds, such as Bath, York and Cambridge, where many students organised to use postal votes.

"There are at least 12 quite

marginal Conservative seats with very significant student populations of around 10,000," a senior Tory source said. "If we manage to have not just polling day but also most of the campaign during the holidays, we have increased our chances of holding those seats."

Tory sources said the student factor would be "a very powerful argument" for April 10. Sir Derek Spencer, the Solicitor-General, has more than 7,000 students from Brighton and Sussex Universities in his Brighton Pavilion seat (maj 3,675) and would be glad of an April election. "Undoubtedly for seats such as mine, it is better to have the election during the university vacation," he said.

One key seat is Luton South (maj 799), where the Tory vice-chair-

man, Sir Graham Bright, faces a student population of some 10,000. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, was so concerned by the impact of the student vote and boundary changes in Loughborough (maj 10,883) that he has fled to the safer seat of Charnwood. Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, faced a strong challenge from students in Stirling (maj 703) in 1992 but will have a tough fight this time around.

Other marginal seats include Coventry South West (maj 1,436); Leeds North West (maj 7,671); Oxford West and Abingdon (maj 3,539); Exeter (maj 4,045); Portsmouth South (maj 242); and Southampton Test (maj 585).

Labour strategists have recognised the possibility of an April

election and have already begun a campaign to get students to register on electoral rolls at their universities and at their parents' homes. They also know the theory could work the other way round. If the election is held during term time, many people studying in Labour strongholds such as in Manchester could use their vote more effectively at home.

To cover this possibility, Labour Students, a group of 6,000 students affiliated to the Labour Party, is running a campaign to show members how to use a postal vote. Students could then vote, whether they are at home or at university, wherever they feel their vote will have most impact.

Ruth Potter, Labour Students' national secretary, said: "If the

Tories go for April, they will have an advantage because students tend to vote Labour. But we are working hard on our campaign."

However, one Tory MP with some 5,000 students in his marginal constituency, rejected the idea, saying he had many active Tory students who would help him secure much of the student vote. "It is a bit of a dated concept that all students are left-wing," he said.

At the last election, the National Union of Students recognised the impact of their members' vote and was accused of backing Labour by urging students to vote in marginal seats. The union's "Target 70" campaign urged students to vote in 70 key seats where the number of students was larger than the sitting MP's majority.

Blair prepared for isolation in defence of British interests

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR made clear yesterday that he would be prepared to stand up for Britain's interests against France or Germany even if it meant Britain was in a "minority of one" in the European Union.

In an attempt to counter Tory accusations that he would be a soft touch in the EU as prime minister, the Labour leader insisted that he would not give up Britain's veto over defence, taxation, immigration and border controls. He also indicated that he would stop any attempts by France and Germany to set up a "cabal" of those already committed to joining a single European currency to oversee the introduction of the euro.

John Major will today report to MPs on the EU summit in Dublin. In his Commons statement, he will emphasise that he will not sign a post-Maastricht treaty until he has won a British opt-out from the 48-hour working week and an end to quota-hopping by continental fishermen.

Some Cabinet ministers are

extremely depressed at the outcome of the summit, which saw the publication of the first Euro notes. "The single currency is unstoppable," said one senior minister. "Mr Major is standing in the way of an runaway train."

The debate over whether Britain should leave the EU would inevitably be reopened, he said. Yesterday it was reported that some MPs on the Europhile wing of the party were threatening to jump ship and join the Liberal Democrats after the general election.

Archy Kirkwood, the Liberal Democrats' Chief Whip, claimed that a dozen Tory MPs had approached him. Kenneth Clarke last night risked fuelling Tory divisions by hitting back at criticism of the new Euro banknotes, accusing the "Euro-sceptic press" of a "ridiculous" reaction to the design of the single currency. The Chancellor, in an interview on BBC2's *The Money Programme* said, the notes were "all right."

Mr Blair yesterday sought to present himself as a leader who could bring a better deal out of Europe than Mr Major. He intends to spend the next weeks trying to eradicate any fears that Labour would know how to Brussels. Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World this Weekend*, "I've made it absolutely clear - I will resolutely stand up for British interests, but British interests are that we are strong, leading players in Europe, not in a position of perpetual marginalisation," he said.

"If it is in Britain's interest to be isolated through the use of the national veto, then we will be isolated. If it is in Britain's interest to be a minority of one we shall be a minority of one."

He argued that because of divisions within the Tory party Britain was probably in its weakest negotiating position since it entered the Common Market.

Matthew Parris and William Rees-Mogg, page 18
 Letters, page 19

Labour puts forward plans to revitalise failing schools

By JILL SHERMAN

TONY BLAIR will today set out plans to rescue failing schools by allowing head teachers of good neighbouring schools to take them over.

In a speech at Ruskin College, Oxford, Mr Blair will announce that a Labour government would give local councils powers to intervene at an earlier stage when schools encounter problems because

of poor discipline or low standards.

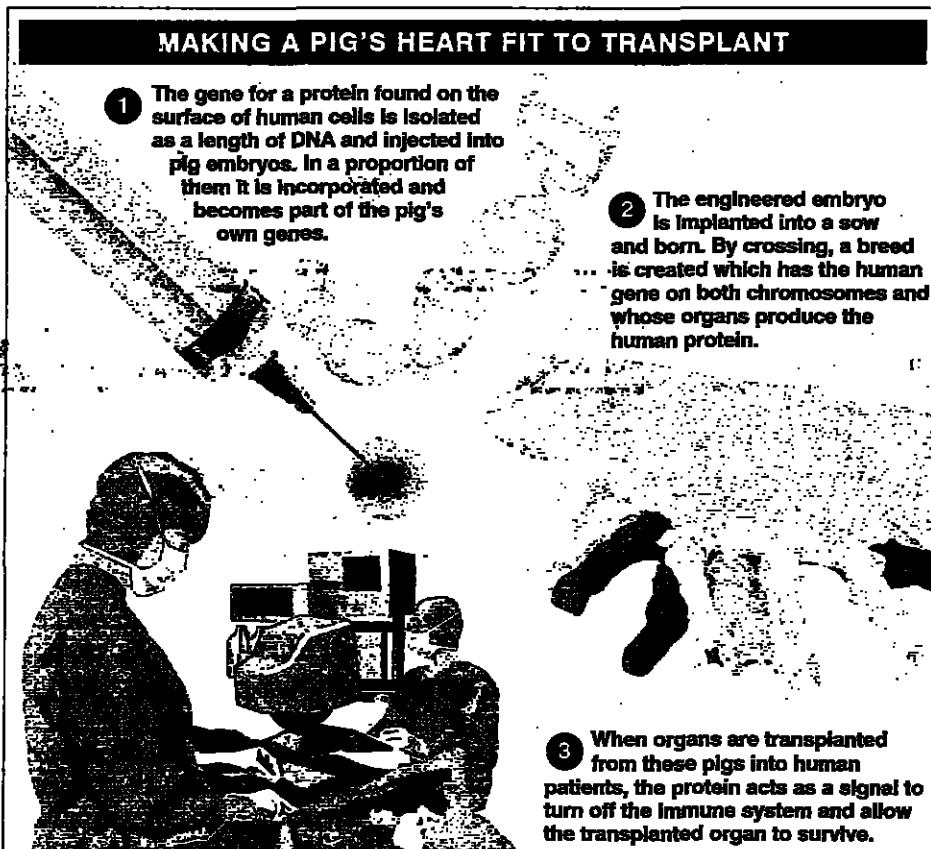
Under the proposals, local education authorities would be expected to draw up a "takeover" plan once they realised a school was running into trouble, and before Ofsted, the school inspectors were called in. Under the plan, which would be piloted in primary schools in the first year of a Labour government, head teachers of thriving

neighbouring schools would be invited to tender for contracts to take over.

The existing head could be dismissed. The new leadership would then be given up to a year with specific performance targets, before being inspected by Ofsted. If the school had improved it would be able to stand on its own feet again. But if it failed, it would be closed or merged with its successful neighbour.



Doctor in waiting: John Wallwork is helping to perfect the technique that may allow pig organs to be transplanted into human beings without risk of rejection



Pig transplants still have to overcome critics' rejection

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

MORE than 6,000 people are waiting for transplants in Britain, but less than half are likely to have them because of a shortage of donated organs. The gap is growing wider as advances in transplant surgery increase the number of people who can be treated.

The availability of organs is limited by families' reluctance to give consent - at least 30 per cent refuse - and the reduction in road accidents. This is the motivation for xenotransplantation - the use of organs from animals.

The pressure for pig transplants to succeed has increased this year because of slow progress for mechanical hearts. Animal tissue, including insulin and heart valves, has been used to save human lives for many years and is regarded as safe. But transplanting whole organs fresh

from the pig may introduce retroviruses to which humans have not been exposed. This is why the Government has delayed approval for the first pig-organ transplants.

Genetic manipulation is also required to prevent the body rejecting the organs. A pig's heart would be destroyed in hours by a process called hyperacute rejection.

The answer is to create pigs with organs that can fool the human immune system, and this is the technique being perfected by Imutran, a company founded by David White, an immunologist at Cambridge University, and John Wallwork, director of transplantation at Papworth Hospital, near Cambridge. Human organs are not attacked by the immune system because they carry signalling proteins - "molecular white

flags" - that declare them to be human.

The pigs bred by Imutran include the gene for one such protein, which may be enough to ward off hyperacute rejection. American rivals have followed a similar approach. Preliminary experiments are encouraging.

Many human diseases are spread from, or originate in, animals. These include Aids, derived from a monkey disease. Dr John Allan, of the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research in San Antonio, Texas, said: "It is irresponsible to do these types of experiments when the downside is the possibility of creating greater suffering through the spread of infectious diseases."

Epidemic fears, page 1
 Leading article, page 19

Condoms in jails

Continued from page 1
 homosexual acts in prison cells re-examined. It admitted, however, that governors understood the need for preventative health measures in jails.

Miss Widdicombe's public disclosure that condoms are allowed to be prescribed in jails is likely to trigger controversy among right-wing members of her party but she will win plaudits from penal reformers for having the courage to admit the practice.

In the past condoms were provided only to prisoners leaving jail for home leave and at weekends.

Miss Widdicombe's remark follows the issue of the circular

from a former Director of Health Care to all heads of health care and governors which also said that failure to provide condoms could in some circumstances leave doctors open to the charge of failing in their duty to care for patients.

The Prison Service admitted yesterday that there was still confusion over the way the law relates to homosexual acts within prisons.

Some officials have argued that gay relationships within a jail are outside the 1968 Sexual Offences Act because a prison cell, which has visual access and cannot be locked, cannot be deemed a private place.

EU fish quotas

Continued from page 1
 fish and beef - both important industries for Ulster.

But he cast doubt on whether his party would help bring down the Government on a no-confidence motion - if one was held - so close to the general election.

"It's only a matter of weeks now to the point at which Parliament will be dissolved and in that period of time we're not going to behave in a capricious or irresponsible manner," he said, on GMTV's *Sunday programme*.

It is unlikely that Labour would force a vote of no confidence even if the Government is defeated last night. Mr

Blair has made clear that he will not force a vote unless he knows he can defeat John Major. Mr Trimble's comments suggest that he is prepared to back the Prime Minister when the Government itself is under threat.

If all nine Ulster Unionists vote against the Government, and all the small opposition parties turn out, Mr Major could be defeated if only one Tory abstained or voted against him. All eyes will turn on John Gort, the Tory MP who said last week that he could not be relied upon to vote with the Government, due to his opposition about local hospital services.



Bourn: has called for new measures

Extra curb on fraud by private services

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
 WHITEHALL EDITOR

PRIVATE contractors receiving public funds are to be subject to new financial controls to curb fraud and corruption.

The powers are expected to be given to the Comptroller and Auditor General, Sir John Bourn, who is expected to inspect a range of new services worth at least £15 billion which have been hived off from Government.

Whitehall sources last week suggested he might also take on responsibilities in relation to local authority cash paid to private contractors for various services.

The change is expected to be included in a White Paper on governance and probity to be launched next month by Roger Freeman, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Sir John has argued for some time that he should have an automatic right to follow public cash, and is particularly concerned to track the £651 million paid to housing associations.

He believes it is anomalous, for example, that the European Court of Auditors is allowed to follow European Union money paid in Britain to the end source, such as the payment of Common Agricultural Policy grants to individual farmers, while he does not have this statutory right.

The need for this external inspection was demanded by the Audit Commission, the local government watchdog, in a submission to Lord Nolan, head of the committee monitoring standards in public life.

Andrew Foster, chief executive of the Audit Commission, said: "A rigorous public audit regime should apply to all bodies which are responsible for spending public money, whatever their formal status."

He listed grant-maintained schools, Training and Enterprise Councils, Universities, Housing Associations and private companies contracted to provide public services.

A commission spokesman said last week they did not mind who conducted the audits as long as the change was made urgently.

The new White Paper will also propose that Government advisory bodies and groups should be subject to more stringent scrutiny.

Hopes rise on Ulster arms pact

Hopes rose yesterday that nationalists and Unionists will reach agreement on the thorny issue of disarming terrorists, allowing the Stormont talks to progress to full scale discussions about the future of Northern Ireland.

Sean Farren, a senior member of the SDLP negotiating team at the talks, said he hoped that the Ulster Unionists, the Alliance Party and the SDLP would sign a joint document on disarmament this week. Differences over how to disarm terrorists have held up progress in the talks since they opened in June, and an agreement between the main parties at Stormont would be a major step forward.

Tree abandoned

Parents of the Dumbleton victims have abandoned a plan to place a Christmas tree next to the semi-circle of graves where their children are buried after their refusal to accept the offer of a tree brought protests from residents. The 6ft tree would have had 17 white lights to mark the 16 children and their teacher Gwen Mayor in the Dumbleton cemetery.

Official cleared

A council housing manager has been cleared of allegations that he kept his job by fabricating evidence to an official inquiry. Bernard Crofton, a housing benefit "fraudbuster" with Hackney council, east London, has been under investigation for seven months after a damning report about his methods by Ian MacDonald, QC.

Pitch invasion

Police horses were used to divide rival Bristol City and Rovers supporters after hundreds of fans invaded the pitch following a last-minute equaliser. There were four arrests in the fighting. Two people, including a child, were injured, neither seriously. The Football Association said that it would launch an inquiry. Report, page 26

Bullbars Bill

Bullbars on vehicles would be banned under a Bill to come before the House of Commons in the new year. Paul Flynn, Labour MP for Newport West, said yesterday. Mr Flynn said that well over 200 backbenchers across the Commons had expressed support for his campaign, which was gaining ground on the European mainland.

Baby soother

Babies could be spared pain by using a system that measures suffering. Research at Liverpool John Moores University report in *Pediatric Nursing* that babies trying to shut out pain become increasingly rigid, have a space between the big toe and other toes, hold thumbs inside a fist, eyes tightly shut and many frown lines.

Father's tribute

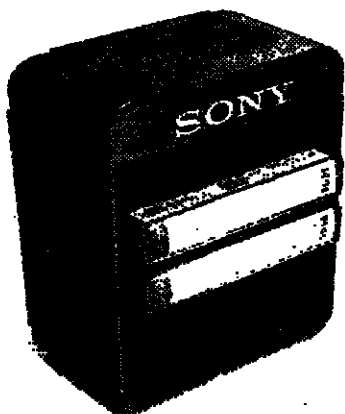
Alex Balchin, 21, whose father is chairman of the Grant Maintained School Foundation and a longstanding Conservative adviser or education, has died after falling from the roof of London's disused County Hall after a party. Sir Robert Balchin paid tribute to his son's work at a centre for the homeless in Brighton.

Climber dies

A climber died and two companions were seriously injured when they fell 300ft while traversing an ice field in driving rain in Snowdonia. The dead man was named as John Fitton, 52, from Southport, Merseyside. His friends are being treated for fractures in hospital in Bangor. Others in the group suffered shock.

Reasons for buying Sony 8mm video.

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SONY

Jealous women shop until their husbands drop

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH AND NICK NUTTALL

WIVES are taking revenge on career-obsessed husbands by turning into compulsive shoppers and running up huge debts. Oxford academics who set out to study Britain's growing number of shopaholics were surprised to find how many were motivated not by pleasure, but by hate.

Out of an estimated 700,000 obsessed shoppers, one in ten is now believed to be spending because she feels patronised or has had her self-confidence undermined by a successful partner. The husband then discovers that success has brought down their finances and their marriage.

Some of the wives feel that it will help to attract their husband's attention, but many of the marriages simply collapse.

Shoppers looking forward to the January sales are most likely to be motivated by beating someone else to a bargain, according to a study of sales mania by researchers at the Manchester School of Management. Questioned on their motives, 74 per cent said they loved beating someone to the same bargain, 65 per cent liked boasting to friends and colleagues, 51 per cent felt that the sales allowed them to get one-up on the retailer, and 48 per cent enjoyed the detective work in finding a true bargain.

do this to a lesser extreme. What seems to have happened is that while a husband or partner is developing a career and becoming wealthy, the spouse is also developing in many ways. However, the husband still treats her like a child or like the woman he married 20 years ago. What the woman seems to be saying is, 'I have changed. I am not a shy, flighty little woman.'

One woman ran up a debt of £70,000 after remortgaging her house, without her husband's knowledge. The mar-

riage failed. Another, named only as Julie, 36, a doctor's wife from the Midlands, said: "If I think I am being done out of weekend trips away because my husband is a self-confessed workaholic, shopping is a way of getting back at him. I say, 'Well, if you took more notice of me and more time off, I wouldn't have to do it, would I?' He treats me in exactly the same way as when we were first married."

Dr Elliott said classic professional groups afflicted by the addiction were lawyers and doctors. "They are successful people who have to work very long hours to achieve what they want."

He suggested that the Duchess of York — whose marriage failed after she was separated from her husband for long periods while he was away with the Navy, and is now struggling to contain huge debts — was a prominent example of the condition.

"It is a revenge and control paradox," he said. "When the person is shopping they feel they are in control when they are most out of control. It is an area of their lives where they are taking the decisions."

The researchers carried out detailed interviews with 50 shopping addicts and sent postal questionnaires to a further 101. Among a range of motives, one in ten wanted to add meaning to their lives by being good at something. They want to become "skilful shoppers".

Most of the others shop compulsively to counter depression. Less than half were happy in marriage or a relationship. In comparison, a similar survey of "normal consumers" found that 75 per cent are happy with their marriages. About 40 per cent had little or no interest in sex, against 14 per cent among the control group.

The researchers claim the financial cost of the condition can be enormous, with average debts ranging from between £12,000 and £15,000. Most compulsive shoppers were women and most of the items bought were clothes which were often never worn.

Fun shopping, page 13



Dr Richard Elliott in Oxford shopping centre. He said: "It's another middle-class disease"

US divorcee must get by on £10m

THE American millionaire Katrina Dart, who claims a £10 million maintenance award made to her in the High Court is not enough to keep her in the style to which she has become accustomed, has failed in a final attempt to increase the sum.

Three law lords have ruled that Mrs Dart, the 37-year-old ex-wife of the multimillionaire Robert Dart, is not entitled to a penny more. She will now have to meet an estimated £15 million in legal costs from the award.

After a private hearing Lord Lloyd, Steyn and Hope refused her leave to appeal to them against a Court of Appeal ruling in July which refused to increase the award and upheld the £10 million payout ordered by Mr Justice Johnson in March.

Mrs Dart's fortune — estimated by him at £400 million and by her at more than £1 billion — comes from manufacturing polystyrene containers for fast food.

Princess delayed on way to service

By A STAFF REPORTER

DIANA, Princess of Wales, missed nearly half of Prince Harry's school concert yesterday after a road crash delayed her journey.

The Princess, who prides herself on punctuality, arrived at Ludgrove School, Berkshire, 25 minutes after the hour-long service had started. The fatal crash on the M4 had caused long delays, with only one westbound lane open.

The Prince of Wales had arrived in plenty of time. After the service, the Princess drove away smiling. Prince William alongside her. The Prince of Wales was a few cars behind, in the passenger seat.

It was the start of the Christmas holidays for Prince Harry, who is 12. The two Princes are likely to spend time with their mother at her home in Kensington Palace. They are expected to travel to Sandringham for Christmas with their father.

The Princess is not expected

at Sandringham, but has reportedly been invited by the Queen to the annual family lunch at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday. Prince William will remain at Sandringham when Prince Charles and Prince Harry go skiing at Klosters, in the Swiss Alps, on December 30.

Yesterday, a claim that the Queen intends to give up Buckingham Palace as her main base was firmly denied. The report, in the *News of the World*, said that she had agreed to move out by next November 28, to live permanently at Windsor Castle, allowing the royal apartments to be used for offices, while the state rooms could be open to the public all year.

A Palace spokesman said: "This is completely untrue. The Queen's working week is spent here. The people she needs to see are in London."

Richard Hodges, page 18

Pagan worshipper joins the magistrates' bench

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A FOLLOWER of the pagan Wiccan faith is to be appointed a magistrate. Aileen Grist, 42, believes that her unusual background will enable her to make fair court decisions.

She said: "My faith teaches me to see the good and goddesses in all people. So I will make court decisions on the act done by a person, rather than on their appearance. My religion cares about the earth and is non-destructive. Hopefully I can be very understanding in hearing cases."

Mrs Grist became a follower of Wicca five years ago when she met her husband, Tony, an former vicar who turned from the Anglican Church after the collapse of his first marriage. The couple living room in their home in Hathershaw, Greater



Grist had wanted to do community-based work.

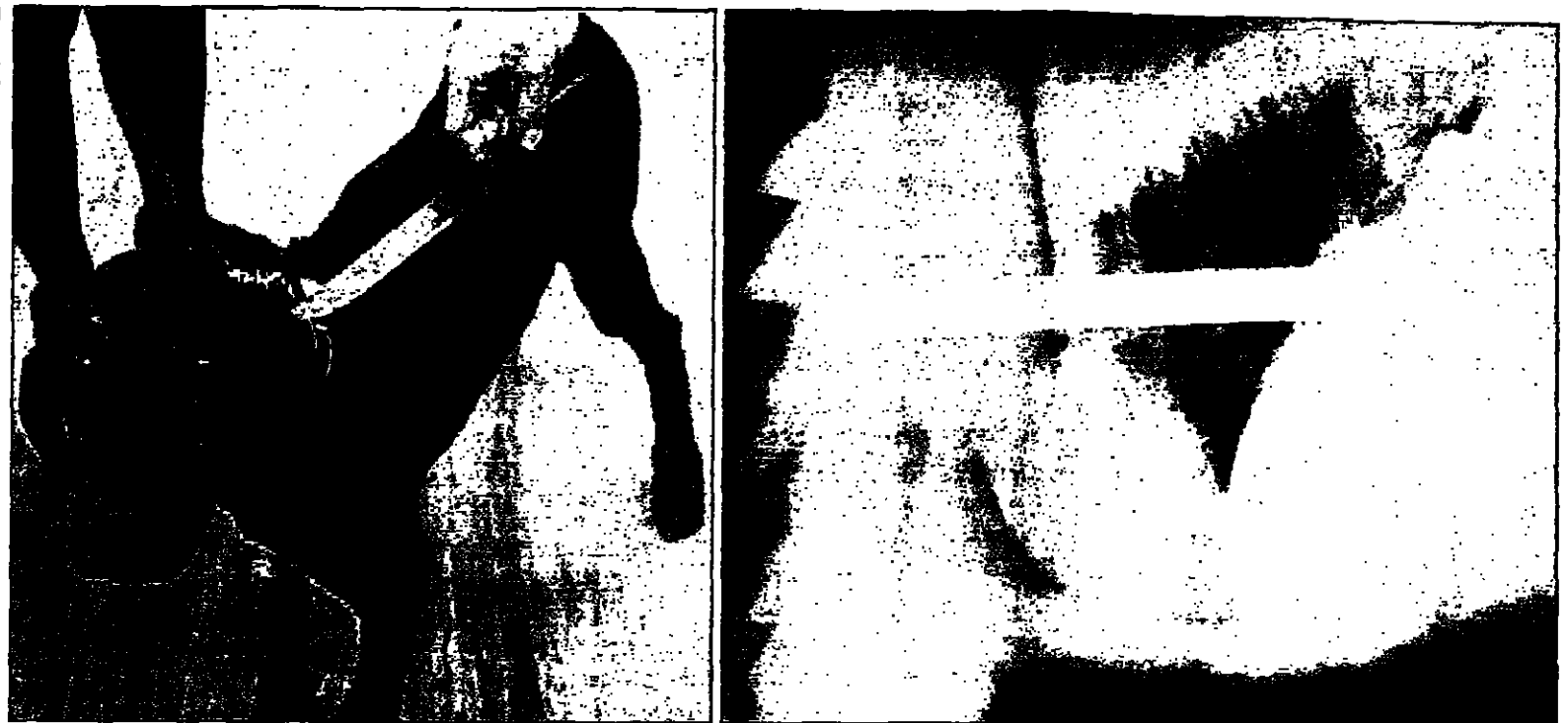
Manchester, is a temple dedicated to Hermes, Aphrodite and the Unconquered Sun.

"I applied to the bench because my rheumatoid arthritis prevents me from getting involved with other

community-based work," Mrs Grist said. She added that her honesty about her religious beliefs had prompted questioning by court officials. "They were satisfied with my answers."

Oldham magistrates confirmed that Mrs Grist had been accepted as one of 16 members to be sworn in on February 11 after training. A spokeswoman said: "The bench is supposed to represent all sections of society and that is what we aim to do."

A courtroom has shut for two weeks while alterations costing £23,000 are carried out so that a woman who uses a wheelchair can sit as a magistrate. Margaret Gunn, 48, from Winchester, Hampshire, said: "I appreciate it is a lot of money, but I could not sit without this work being done."



Nerves of steel: Bailey the Doberman, whose suspected stomach upset was found to be caused by a 13in stainless steel kitchen knife

Knife-swallowing dog not in the least cut up

By ROBIN YOUNG

A DOBERMANN puppy swallowed a 13in kitchen knife and has the X-rays to prove it. While urban mythology abounds with tales of Dobermanns gobbling up burglars' fingers or smaller dogs, Bailey's unprecedented feat of turning canine sword-swallower is beyond doubt, being fully documented and professionally attested.

Bailey's owner, Hannah Ransom, 22, who lives near Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, took the five-month-old pup to the vet because it could not keep its food down. On the first two visits the vets gave the dog antibiotics to cure what they

took to be a tummy upset. However, when its condition still did not improve four days after the symptoms were noticed, Bailey was X-rayed.

The vet, Mike Stevenson, could not believe his eyes, and supposed the outline of the knife which showed on the film must have been caused by something accidentally left on the X-ray table.

However, a second scan confirmed that Bailey had indeed ingested a bellyful, in the form of a stainless steel knife with a plastic handle. The knife reached from the bottom of its stomach to the back of its throat.

Bailey seems to have per-

formed his omnivorous feat while chewing on the knife's bone-like handle. Once swallowed, the handle lodged in its stomach, leaving the knife blade lining its oesophagus and preventing it swallowing food. In a delicate half-hour operation Mr Stevenson, 28, gradually eased the blade along Bailey's gullet and out of its mouth until he could pull the whole knife clear.

Ms Ransom said: "Though Bailey was being sick a lot he remained his usual playful self, even while the knife was stuck inside him. He has chewed chunks out of the settee before, but never done anything as daft as swallow-



Ransom took dog to vet

ing a knife. We do not leave knives lying around. He must have snatched this one from the draining board."

Mr Stevenson, of the Rowe

veterinary centre in Bradley Green, said: "This is the biggest and most bizarre foreign object I have ever had to remove from a dog. He was lucky not to be injured. He escaped damage only because the blade was blunt. If it had been sharp it would have cut him internally and almost certainly killed him."

Mr Stevenson said that he has had to retrieve squash balls, pebbles, pillow cases and tights from dogs' interiors, but Bailey's internal acquisition was a cut above the competition.

Ms Ransom reported that Bailey was now back to normal. "He is full of beans, behaving like a tornado on four legs," she said.

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An open letter to the Rt Hon. Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Dear Foreign Secretary

This morning you are flying to Cyprus on what is indeed an historic first ever visit by a British Foreign Secretary. You will be visiting a country that for the past 22 years is under occupation and where people have been living in constant fear because of Turkey's massive military presence.

Many governments have repeatedly stated that the present situation is unacceptable. None has done anything substantive to change it. Several initiatives were undertaken by the UN Secretary General in this direction but all have failed. A plethora of Security Council resolutions remain unimplemented. The reason for the failure of all initiatives as eloquently stated in the Secretary General's Report of 30 May 1994, is the lack of political will on the Turkish side.

The Turkish Cypriots are constantly being forced to emigrate with the result that about 40% of them, especially the young ones, have left the island and most of them are here, in London. In the meantime Turkey is rapidly altering the demographic composition of the occupied area by implanting settlers from mainland Turkey. The threat that, in the near future the settlers from Turkey may be the only people living in the occupied part of the island, is very real.

So, beyond the human suffering, the agony and frustration, we must recognise that the longer the present situation continues, the more difficult it will be to solve it.

We welcome the signals sent by the British Government that you are determined to be effectively and deeply engaged in the efforts to solve the problem. In this respect it is important to bear in mind the following:

- Tolerance has never solved any problem. In the case of Cyprus tolerance has facilitated the Turkish occupation. Britain as a guarantor power has the obligation to guarantee the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Cyprus which are being grossly violated by the continuing Turkish occupation.
- The presence of the Turkish troops on the island and the continued ethnic cleansing, carried out by Turkey, are a gross violation of the principles of international law, the several resolutions of the United Nations, the principles of the Council of Europe — of which Turkey is a member — and the code of conduct of the OSCE of which Turkey is also a member.
- Denktash's dream is to become 'President' of a recognised state. He hopes that by blocking all efforts for a solution to the Cyprus problem, his illegal entity will, eventually be recognised. In this respect he interprets any visits or meetings with him or the members of his illegal regime by foreign officials, in the occupied area or abroad, not as an encouragement for a solution, but as a step towards recognition of his illegal regime.
- Cyprus will soon be commencing accession negotiations with the European Union. The period from now until these negotiations commence is ideal for making every effort to reach a solution. Thus, every opportunity available should be explored with urgency. At the same time any signals which highlight and magnify difficulties of accession of Cyprus if the problem is not solved, are not only unnecessary but are damaging the prospect for the accession process serving as catalyst for the solution of the problem.

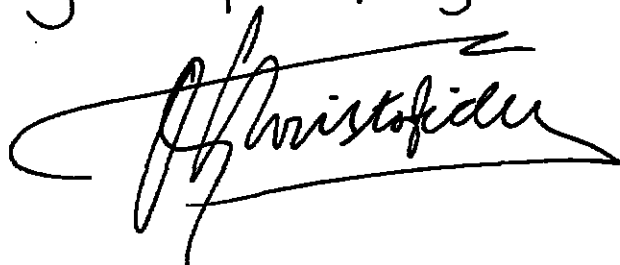
Dear Foreign Secretary,

Your mission will be successful if you send a clear message to Mr Denktash, that Britain will never recognise his illegal regime and that the British Government is determined to do its utmost for an urgent solution to the Cyprus problem.

This is the moment for resolute action and not declarations.

We wish you every success in your mission and we will support fully any determined effort to bring an end to the Cyprus problem.

Yours faithfully



George Christofides

On behalf of the National Federation of Cypriots in Great Britain

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Caesarean mothers challenge legal might of judges



Court campaign: Fahima Chowdhury and her son

THE power of High Court judges to compel women to undergo surgery is to be challenged in a ground-breaking action by two women forced to have Caesarean sections.

The women have been granted legal aid to sue hospital authorities that were granted emergency orders to carry out the operations. Judges from the High Court's Family Division who have made the orders, at private hearings and without the women being legally represented, may also face an unprecedented legal action.

Lawyers for the mothers are preparing a challenge to the common law immunity from legal action that judges enjoy, on the ground that they exceeded their powers in ordering the women to be detained so that surgery could be carried out.

There has been a series of cases in the past year in which hospitals

have sought emergency court orders, often outside normal court hours, to enable them to conduct what they say are lifesaving Caesarean sections. The Official Solicitor is usually involved in the hearings, but only to advise the court or to represent the interests of the baby. He does not act for the woman.

In the latest case, Mr Justice Kirkwood granted an order for a woman to be given a drip that enabled the hospital to carry out a Caesarean. Doctors said the operation was needed to save the life of her unborn child. The mother, aged 20, refused to have the drip because she had a phobia of needles, but she has since thanked the hospital for its actions.

One of the women granted legal aid is Fahima Chowdhury, who was forced to give birth by Caesarean to a boy, Mahibur, at Birch Hill Hospital, Rochdale. She had painful

■ Women forced to undergo surgery, after secret hearings at which they have no legal representative, want to overturn judges' traditional common law immunity from legal action, writes Frances Gibb

after-effects from a previous Caesarean and said that she would rather die than have another.

Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust applied for a court order three days into labour in June, believing that her Caesarean scar was at risk of rupturing, putting her and the baby's life at risk. The order was granted by Mr Justice Johnson, but Mrs Chowdhury then consented to the Caesarean. She said in a newspaper: "There were five doctors around my bed all telling me that I would die and so would my baby if I didn't have a Caesarean." The hospital said that it had acted

properly and would do the same again if life were at risk.

The second mother in the legal action is a professional woman who does want to be named. She was detained in hospital in April under the Mental Health Act 1983 when eight months pregnant and suffering from pre-eclampsia. The hospital authorities obtained a court order without her being legally represented and she underwent a Caesarean against her wishes.

Beverly Beech, of the Association for Improvements in the Maternity Services, said: "It is outrageous that doctors should be overruling the

wishes of patients in these cases. They say that lives are at risk but that is by no means certain. There have been a number of cases in the United States where women have contested these orders and gone on to give birth without the need for a Caesarean."

It is not possible to say how many cases there have been because of the secrecy of the orders. Among those that have come to light are a second order granted in June by Mr Justice Johnson to Norfolk and Norwich Healthcare NHS Trust, where the judge held that the woman was not able to weigh up information in order to make an informed decision. Some lawyers said that the order had effectively defined pregnant women as incompetent. Jameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust was granted an order by Mr Justice Wall, who held that a Caesarean was treatment for a

mental disorder under the Mental Health Act.

Richard Stein, of the London solicitors Leigh Day & Co, is collating cases of women ordered to have Caesareans. With Barbara Hewson, a barrister, he is considering challenging the judges through judicial review or, ultimately, in the European Court of Human Rights. The action would be brought on the basis that the judges had "falsely imprisoned" the women "without show of right", as the law holds, or parliamentary authority. Alternatively, they could be sued for trespass.

Mr Stein said: "It is worrying that such an important public policy development is happening by stealth." Such orders should be publicly debated, not brought in "late on Friday afternoons, in private, with the threat of a dead baby hanging over the judge".

Surgery that the patient would prefer to forget



Dr Thomas Stuttford

AFTER surgery for gallstones at King's Mill Hospital, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, Christine Crapper no longer suffers from abdominal discomfort, nausea or acute pain but has gained £2,000 and a medical story to make the blood run cold.

Mrs Crapper, 49, of Mansfield, was at first given, accidentally, such a light anaesthetic that she could hear the surgeons talking and experienced the sensation of them opening up her abdomen. She felt the anaesthetic tube in her throat, had the sense that she was suffocating and was conscious of the surgeons rummaging in her abdomen.

She was, however, quite unable to talk or move to draw their attention to her wakefulness. Mrs Crapper was completely paralysed as the muscle-relaxant she had had, unlike her anaesthetic, was working perfectly.

There is probably a smaller chance of having a bad anaesthetic in Britain than anywhere else in the world, for we realised here, sooner than most doctors elsewhere did, that a good anaesthetic was as important to the patient's recovery as a good surgeon.

The trouble arose at King's Mill Hospital because there was a leaking tube in the anaesthetic machine, so some of the mixture intended to put

Mrs Crapper soundly asleep escaped. The fault was soon noticed, and rectified, after which Mrs Crapper received the correct dose and additional oxygen.

Even so, the patient was able to hear the anaesthetist say to the surgeon, once the machine was in running order: "All right, carry on." For good measure, Mrs Crapper was later also given intravenous midazolam, a benzodiazepine marketed as Hypnovel, which is not only a useful sedative, but also has the great advantage that in most cases, but not obviously in Mrs Crapper's, it eliminates any memories of the operation.

Mrs Crapper is not the first person to have heard surgeons talking during an operation, nor will she be the last. But this occurs rarely and, even when it does, pain is not often experienced, as this is one of the first sensations to be blunted by anaesthesia. Hearing is the last to go.

In one of the first anaesthetics I ever gave, I was too keen that the patient should wake up after the operation. My anaesthetic was so light that he remembered every word spoken in theatre. The patient, a jolly Cockney, said that he had felt no pain, and was not even concerned. He nonetheless greatly enjoyed recounting the story afterwards whenever we met.



Students at Grange school yesterday. One said: "I do get exhausted going to school six days a week, but it will be worthwhile if I get the grades"

Sunday classes help pupils make the grade

By PAUL WILKINSON

A SCHOOL with some of the worst examination results in the country opened for Sunday lessons yesterday in an attempt to improve students' performance.

Grange upper school, in Bradford, west Yorkshire, which is near the bottom of the education league tables, will open for at least the next five Sundays. About 70 students, all volunteers, turned up yesterday.

Consolidation classes in mathematics, English, science and personal and social development were held from 10am to 1pm at the comprehensive in the mainly Asian district of Great Horton. Richard Thompson, the head teacher, said: "The youngsters have a

tremendous thirst for work and when I offered them the Sunday morning classes they nearly bit my hand off. Now half of year 11 will be coming in every Sunday and that is very encouraging. We are trying to tap into their motivation; and for them to come in on Sundays affirms the strength within themselves to do well."

The students, aged 15 and 16, are preparing for their GCSEs next year. Six teachers have agreed to take classes voluntarily and Mr Thompson commended their commitment. Only 10 per cent of students at the school gained five GCSEs at grades A to C last summer, according to the league tables compiled by Bradford Education Authority.

John Ryan, Bradford education com-

mittee chairman, said: "This is just the sort of thing we are looking for and trying to encourage. It is testament to the school that it wants to do the best it can for its pupils. There is an urgent priority in the district schools to raise the level of achievement and Grange has to be commended for setting up these classes, particularly in English and maths. I would like to see other schools follow suit."

Money for the extra classes this month has been provided by Bradford council and next month's lessons will be financed by a donation from the Bradford study support network, a group of parents and educationalists dedicated to improving academic achievement in the city. However, Mr Thompson, who admits that he has

been going round the community with "a begging bowl" for financial assistance, hopes to attract a business or industrial sponsor.

One student, Elizabeth Khan, 16, said her grades had already improved. She added: "The atmosphere on Sundays is more relaxed than on normal schooldays, which relieves the pressure on the teachers and gives them more time to go through work on an individual basis."

Zeshann Ejaz, 15, said: "This is an important term for us. I do get exhausted going to school six days a week, but it will be worthwhile if I get the grades I need to become a chemist. I was surprised that so many other pupils turned up on a Sunday. I had nothing better to do."

Widow rejects killer's sympathy

By RICHARD FORD

THE widow of Philip Lawrence last night dismissed his killer's first words of contrition. Frances Lawrence was responding to an interview with *Leeds Evening Telegraph* in which he expressed sympathy for the murdered headmaster.

She said: "Mr Chindamo's words reported in a public capacity hold little significance for me. If he were to communicate privately that might be a different matter."

Chindamo, 16, said he prayed for Mrs Lawrence and her four children and was thinking of writing them a Christmas message of sympathy. He said: "I think of him when I am praying. I pray for the family every night and ask God to look after them." Chindamo also said in the interview, published in *The Sunday Times*: "I think [Mr Lawrence] was very brave."

Chindamo's calls may now be monitored as ministers are concerned that he was able to talk to a reporter by telephone from the youth treatment centre in Birmingham where he has been detained since being convicted of Mr Lawrence's murder.

Gerry Malone, the Health Minister, is to consider whether all telephone calls to young criminals at Glenelg youth treatment centre should be monitored by staff. At present calls to and from the centre are not monitored, but those for high-risk Category A prisoners are.

One option likely to be discussed would be to seek a court order banning the media from attempting to contact Chindamo or publish details about his whereabouts and treatment.

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Young laughter masks the quiet despair at Christmas

By JOHN YOUNG

IN A room at Guy's Hospital, southeast London, a children's Christmas party is taking place, organised by volunteers from the Prince's Trust. There are clowns and balloons, games and music, cakes and ice-cream and some of the young patients are enjoying themselves noisily.

Some, but not all. Sian Gorvett, a pretty, fragile-looking six-year-old from Chatham, Kent, is sitting in a pushchair while her parents, Sue and Graham, try to get her to drink from a plastic mug. She is suffering from a rare metabolic disorder which inhibits her digestion.

Despite being on drugs and a special diet, she is subject to infections which make her unable to keep her food down. "She has lost a lot of weight



Sian Gorvett: has rare metabolic disorder

and energy and is very tired," her mother said. "The last couple of months have been the worst. Her father said: 'Our local hospital in Chatham couldn't cope, so she's been here in Guy's for the last five weeks and Sue has had to stay with her the whole time.'"

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Sian is one of several children at the Evelina Children's Hospital - the paediatric unit of the Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital Trust - suffering from what are broadly classified as neurological diseases. They include muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, spina bifida and epilepsy and are for many hospital staff the most distressing because, in many cases, the prognosis offers little hope of a cure.

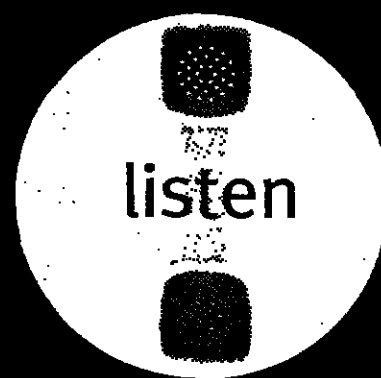
With other forms of illness, such as heart disease or kidney failure, surgery and transplants can transform young lives. But despite improved treatments the whys and wherefores of neurological illnesses are still too often a mystery and, without more money for research, are likely to remain so.

Geraldine Taylor, the hospital's children's services manager, said: "I sometimes feel neurology is the poor relation. It's much harder to get across to the public and, in cases where treatment can't offer a cure, we have to concentrate on improving the quality of the child's life."

Back in the ward Fiona Kilby, from Peterborough, is at the bedside of her son, Curtis, aged seven months. He was born with severe epilepsy and suffered his first fit when only a week old. "It's very frightening but you have to learn to live with it," she said. Her two older children, girls aged four and seven, are being looked after at home by their father. She is feeling depressed at the thought of spending Christmas in hospital.

"I try to show some excitement for the girls' sake, but my being stuck here doesn't help. There's a chance we may be home for Christmas. I can only just keep hoping."

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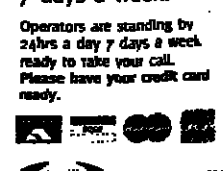
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Shellfish shortage threatens survival of oystercatcher

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

AN URGENT investigation is to be launched into a dramatic and mysterious decline in the number of oystercatchers at the Wash, one of Europe's most important wildlife sites.

Surveys by the British Trust for Ornithology have found that the number of oystercatchers has slumped from 45,000 to 15,000 in seven years.

Paul Fisher, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said yesterday: "Numbers of oystercatchers have declined dramatically as have knots. Since 1989 we have lost 30,000 oystercatchers and there is no evidence to suggest they have gone anywhere else. They have disappeared." The knot, a small sandpiper, has also declined dramatically.

Some of the birds, which feed on shellfish, have overcome their well-documented shyness to feed on earthworms in gardens and on golf courses. The suspicion is that the slump in numbers is linked with an equally dramatic decline in cockles and mussels on the Wash, an estuary whose numbers of wildfowl and wading birds make it the most important coastal area in the British Isles.

For four years the mussel fishery has been closed and experts claim that the last good fall of mussel spat — the larval form of mussels that develop into harvestable adults — was a decade ago.

Chris Beach, of the Eastern Fisheries Joint Committee in King's Lynn, Norfolk, said yesterday that the cockle fishery had also declined during the past four years. In an attempt to boost the numbers this year, fishermen's quotas were heavily reduced last year, but the number of cockles continued to fall. Instead of catching 5,000 tonnes in 1996, the fishermen have been able to harvest only 1,350 tonnes.

Earlier this week an urgent meeting was held organised by the committee, involving scientists and conservationists, including those with the Environment Agency, the



The oystercatcher needs good supply of mussels



Ministry of Agriculture, the RSPB and fishermen's groups. It has generated scores of theories about what is causing the decline in birds and shellfish on the Wash and why similar problems have not been seen elsewhere in Britain.

Mr Fisher said some researchers were linking the problems to global warming. Mussels produce less spat when waters are warm. However, cockles' fertility is less severely damaged by rising water temperatures.

Computer models of global warming indicate that there will be more winter storms, which has happened in recent years. Mr Fisher said the Wash was especially sensitive to increasing storminess "because it opens the Wash up to the North Sea".

This year also saw the second highest tide recorded on the estuary. "It dumped millions of tonnes of sand from the Lincolnshire coast on to large areas of the Wash's sand flats. This covered up what would have been this year's mussel harvest," Mr Fisher said.

The Wash is also fed by rivers that run through some

of the most intensively farmed land in Europe, increasing speculation that nitrates from fertilisers and pesticides might be involved in the decline in shellfish. There is also dredging in the area.

The estuary has been chosen along with 11 other sites in Britain, for special European Commission conservation funding as part of the Habitats and Species Directive. Mr Beach said some of the funds would be earmarked for an urgent scientific study into the plight of the Wash at a meeting next month. "There does not seem to be a single factor that can be blamed. In all probability it is a combination of numerous factors," he said.

John Lake, a local fisherman and fish processor, said that urgent action was needed to save the Wash's shellfish and fishing industry, as well as its wildlife. He accused the Ministry of Agriculture yesterday of "sweeping the matter under the carpet".

Mr Lake, whose boats are based at King's Lynn, said fishermen were convinced that dredging at the mouth of the estuary was to blame. Dredging, for coastal defences from Skegness to Grimsby on the Lincolnshire coast, has been operating for about 25 years. "The Wash was the richest UK source of shellfish. Since the dredging started it has become a desert," he said.

Last year he exported 450 tonnes of brown shrimp but this year only 15 tonnes. "We are at an all-time low of cockles, mussels and brown shrimp... this year, we have also had no skate or sole coming into the Wash," Mr Lake said.

He added that the 400 or so shellfishermen working on the estuary faced economic ruin. Mr Lake said that they had tried whelk fishing off Grimsby, but that had run out and this year they had turned to cockles in the Thames estuary. "Where will we go next year?" he asked.

Letters, page 19



John Lake, one of 400 shellfishermen on the Wash facing economic ruin

'Tally-ho' taunts strengthen political determination of Anglo-Irish earl

By Nicholas Watt, Chief Ireland Correspondent

SMOULDERING anti-English sentiment has ignited in the Irish Republic after an Anglo-Irish earl failed to win selection to represent the governing Fine Gael party at the next general election.

The Earl of Mount Charles, whose family fought with the Protestant William of Orange during the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, has been accused by a Fine Gael colleague of being an "absentee lord" and of having a "tally-ho" attitude.

The "Brit bashing" has principally been associated with Bertie Ahern, vehemently republican leader of Fianna Fail, Ireland's largest political party. But John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister and Fine Gael leader, has become involved after Lord Mount Charles failed to be selected in Co. Louth, where he won a creditable 4,161 votes at the last poll.

The earl's strongest ally in Fine Gael said that Mr Bruton



The Earl of Mount Charles outside his home: his ambition is to sit in the Dail and the House of Lords

was not living up to his public commitment to respect the English heritage in Ireland. The Taoiseach won widespread praise when he said on the fifth anniversary of VE-Day last year that the Republic should "harness all the strands that go into the making of the Irish tradition".

Frank Smith, the earl's ally,

said: "John Bruton won't face up to the republicanism in Fine Gael. There is hidden agenda in the party, in common with all parties in this country that still see things as Ireland versus England."

Lord Mount Charles, 45, is furious about comments by Fergus O'Dowd, who won the Fine Gael nomination in Co

Louth. Mr O'Dowd said of the earl, who is known in the Republic as Mr Henry Mount Charles: "It's a case of very sour grapes, mixed with a liberal dash of tally ho... How long is it since Henry attended a Fine Gael meeting? An absentee lord can expect no special treatment."

There is speculation that Lord Mount Charles may now stand in Mr Bruton's constituency of Co. Meath, the earl's home county, despite previously giving an undertaking not to.

The earl, a colourful figure who has hosted rock concerts at his Slane Castle estate. He is determined one day to sit in both the Dail and the House of Lords. He is the heir to his father, the 7th Marquess Conyngham. "It is healthy to have people in the Dail who come from a mixed background," he said. "Until we understand the contradictions on this island we cannot move forward."

Leading article, page 19

Carey warns of growing pains

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

THE Archbishop of Canterbury warned yesterday against the jealousy, pain and neglect that can result in an organisation experiencing rapid growth, such as the Church of England.

After decades of falling numbers, when bishops and archbishops have busied themselves mainly with closing churches and managing decline, Dr George Carey now finds himself in the position of helping churches to cope with growing congregations.

Dr Carey, in a sermon at Holy Trinity Brompton, in Knightsbridge, west London, a prime example of Anglican growth, said: "We live in disturbing as well as exciting times for the Church." He said that rapid growth could lead to disappointment and feelings of neglect among "those who are jealous that one person, or group, or scheme seems to be getting more attention than another".

Dr Carey also emphasised

that if a church in the city or countryside was not growing, it did not necessarily mean that it was being unfaithful.

The turnaround in Anglican churchgoing numbers, which can be traced roughly to the date that Dr Carey took office in 1991, has taken many bishops by surprise. Certainly, few thought that their new archbishop would ever find himself delivering sermons on how to cope with the problems of growth.

The Church of England, which has about 1.1 million people in church each Sunday, and where Christmas communicants have increased to 1.5 million, is now seeing one new congregation "planted" or established every two weeks. In the first three years of the decade of evangelism, 102 new churches were planted, while 84 church buildings were made redundant. In the past two years the number of new churches has continued to exceed the number of closures.

Rail firms accused of reneging on payouts

Private rail companies are "diluting" passenger's charter targets to reduce the compensation that they must pay, a watchdog has told the Transport Secretary. David Bertram, chairman of the Central Rail Users Consultative Committee, said some were refusing to pay for missed connections and cumulative delays caused by problems on other operators' trains. "Companies are restricting compensation to situations where only they are at fault," the minister. Sir George Young, said he was keen to ensure that passengers did not lose out. Glenda Jackson, a Labour transport spokeswoman, said: "Thousands of commuters are set to lose compensation to which they were previously entitled."

Britons held in drug raid

Three Britons were arrested in Barranquilla, on the Caribbean coast of Colombia, when police seized £33 million of cocaine from an American-registered yacht. The three were named as Michael Hayne, his son, Alan, and David Maurice Shaw. It is alleged that they were involved in attempting to smuggle 194 kilograms of cocaine into Europe via the British Virgin Islands. Police said Shaw had entered Colombia on many occasions.

Farm butterflies at risk

Protection of farm grasslands is needed to save British butterflies, Martin Warren, of the group Butterfly Conservation, told the conference of the British Association of Nature Conservationists. He said that three farm species had become extinct: the black-veined white, the mazarine blue and the large blue. Five were at risk: the pearl-bordered fritillary, small pearl-bordered fritillary, high brown fritillary, marsh fritillary and the silver-spotted skipper.

E. coli cases increase

Two new suspected cases of *E. coli* food poisoning have been reported in Forth Valley and Lanarkshire, bringing the total in Scotland to 399. Forth Valley now has 87 suspected cases, of which 71 have been confirmed, and Lanarkshire has 312 cases, 147 confirmed. Twelve people have died in the outbreak and many, including a number of children, are still seriously ill in hospital.

Number up for car rush

The ritual rush for new cars on August 1 may be replaced by a change of number-plate registration only once every two to four years, under proposals to be announced by the Government tomorrow. Ministers are considering the less frequent switch, with regions changing at different times, to ease the strain on the motor industry. A quarter of its annual sales now take place in August.

Honest drunk banned

A motorist who went to police to confess drink-driving has been banned for 15 months. Andrew Browning, 24, of Mylor Bridge, Cornwall, walked to a police station after hitting a kerb and puncturing a tyre as he drove home in the early hours. He was worried about his stranded car being a road hazard, and was found to be twice the alcohol limit. He was also fined £200 by Falmouth magistrates.

NHS cuts eczema drugs

The National Eczema Society has written to its 15,000 members inviting them to object to government plans to drop treatments from the NHS prescription list for people with skin conditions. The Advisory Committee on NHS Drugs has recommended that 37 skin treatments are no longer offered on prescription. Those drugs still available over the counter would have to be bought at full price.

Award for McCartneys

Paul and Linda McCartney received an award from the animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, for their work in fighting and publicising animal cruelty, especially the fur trade. The Lifetime Achievement Award, presented at a ceremony in Hollywood by the actors Alec Baldwin and Kim Basinger, was accepted via a video link. Mrs McCartney was unable to attend because she is recovering from chemotherapy treatment for cancer. McCartney is recording a new solo album.



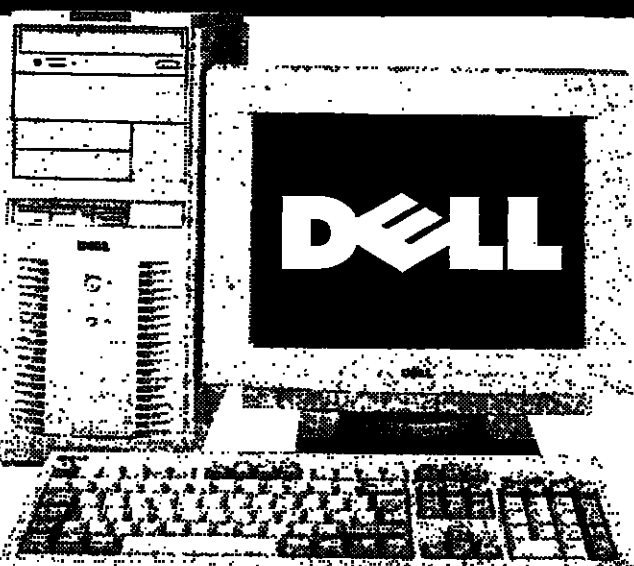
Dunblane single soars

The Dunblane Christmas record, *Knockin' on Heaven's Door*, was confirmed yesterday as the country's best-selling single, six days after going on sale. The song, performed by 14 children from Dunblane's primary and secondary schools, had its public launch on December 5 and went on sale on December 9, by which time 500,000 advance orders had been received.

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Funny money cannot change sceptical public into Euro enthusiasts

They have designed the banknotes in the middle of next year they will unveil the coins. Rules are churning out of the Brussels machine and the "stability pact" is sealed. But the European Union's great and good are still groping for a Big Idea.

In Dublin last weekend and in the corridors of Brussels, you can still sense an undercurrent of worry beneath the facade of busy preparations for the single currency.

A few weeks ago I listened to an experienced European Commissioner admit in private that Euro-scepticism was



gaining ground across the continent. Disrespect for the EU's institutions and uninterest in their agenda were not confined to Britain, he acknowledged. But people in Brussels think, he added, that

"provided we get monetary union, everything will be OK". He did not sound so sure. The Commissioner reflected a half-spoken fear that the single currency may be loaded with more hopes than it can carry: on its own, the euro may not be the magic ingredient required to relight passion for a united Europe. If it goes wrong, it might have the opposite effect. In short, there is no big, lovable idea any more.

Once upon a time the architects of a federal EU imagined that if Europeans felt they were all part of the same political community, they would be happy to live

under the same economic policies and in the end be keen to use the same money. In Brussels jargon, political and economic union would precede monetary union. The fact that nobody could agree whether the EU was supposed to be a cohesive superpower or simply a system to stop wars in Europe — separate purposes demanding quite different solutions — did not seem to matter much.

The Maastricht treaty nailed down the single currency but left "political union" as vague as ever: worshipped throughout German politics, paid lip service

to in France but nowhere written on paper. Now member states are trying to rewrite the treaty in an inter-governmental conference (IGC), and getting nowhere.

Tory ministers may froth about majority voting and Jacques Santer, the Commission President, may mutter that Britain's "hour of truth" is approaching, but they know that the IGC does not amount to a row of beans. "The EU is spinning its wheels but at a higher level," says Professor Hans-Peter Schwarz of Bonn University, in a penetrating attack on Germany's never-ending wish to nudge its partners to

surrender more sovereignty. Professor Schwarz, greatest living expert on the federalist faithful of his country's Christian Democratic Party, offers a simple explanation: "The more voters worry about the mysterious workings of the global economy, the less they are ready to give up the principle of popular sovereignty."

The real redistribution of power inside the EU will be the divisions drawn by the single currency: which states are in, which are out and the balance of power between the two groups.

Far-sighted federalists see two dangers lurking: first,

that the French electorate will feel dragged into the gravitational field of the Bundesbank under the false pretence that monetary union would give them control of the mark.

France may have won a tactical victory in Dublin on the deficit rules, but Paris's attempts to talk down the independence of what will be a German-flavoured central bank have been a wholesale failure so far.

The second and larger risk lies in relying on the single currency to accomplish the unification which has defeat-

ed politicians. There is no obvious reason why depoliticising the control of money and changing the colour of their banknotes should make a Dutchman or an Irishwoman feel more European than they already do.

Elizabeth Guigou, now an MEP but once France's leading EU treaty negotiator, was worrying about this in Dublin. Naturally, she wants the single currency to happen but sees "a real danger" in letting money take all the strain: "As far as public opinion is concerned, one money on its own can't work."

GEORGE BROCK

Dutch urged to freeze Britain out of talks

BRITAIN could be cut out of negotiations for a new Maastricht treaty until after the general election under a scheme pressed by several European Union states on the Dutch Government, which assumes the EU presidency on January 1.

According to Michael Patijn, the Dutch minister who takes over as head of the treaty negotiations, frustration over the pre-electoral paralysis in Britain's conduct of EU affairs is prompting demands for the 14 other members to draft a new treaty without London.

"There are some who are suggesting that we have a negotiation at 14, and then see what the British can do," Mr Patijn said. "Others are saying if you do that you basically have two negotiations in a row, first 14 and then with the British. That's a prospect that is not very appealing. We had better negotiate with 15 for now, and see how far we can go and wait for political events next spring."

Britain's Euro-reluctance, compounded by the imminent election, is the biggest challenge facing Mr Patijn, Minister for European Affairs in The Netherlands' centre-left coalition Government, as he prepares to take over from Ireland the chair of the inter-governmental conference (IGC), the treaty negotiations.

At their summit in Dublin on Saturday, EU leaders gave their blessing to Ireland's outline draft for a revamped treaty as the basis for the final version, which is due to



Charles Bremner in Dublin reports on the tough negotiating strategy being proposed against the Tory Government

emerge from a summit in Amsterdam in June. However, all the hard bargaining has been left to the Dutch turn.

Mr Patijn said The Netherlands, which is one of the most federal-minded EU members, intends to get to grips immediately with the tough "institutional" issues and would not tolerate the speechmaking that had characterised the IGC in its nine months so far.

The negotiations and insisted that Britain would block the drive, supported by all 14 others, to remove the veto from some areas of EU decision-making.

The Government's abrasive approach sharpened the chorus of frustration in Dublin from EU officials who are weary with what they see as the obstruction being applied by Britain to the Maastricht revamp. Eyes looked to the

ernment with a fresh mandate will have a much stronger political base.

The Netherlands will work to avert the production of a minimalist treaty in Amsterdam, Mr Patijn said. The Dutch Government has not, he acknowledged, forgotten the trauma of its last turn in the EU chair in 1991, when it produced a draft for the Maastricht treaty that was rejected as too federalist by all the other members. The Irish text will form the basis of "Maastricht II", rather than any grand new scheme of the 1991 type.

The Netherlands will nevertheless push for its own vision, which is reflected in the language of Wim Kok, the Prime Minister, who believes that the EU should be "freed from the tyranny of decision-making by unanimity". The Netherlands wants a stronger Commission, more power for the European Parliament, and beefed-up machinery for foreign policy and borders and police work.

On Saturday, Mr Major hammered home Britain's refusal to contemplate the call, already in the Irish draft, for a frontier-free Europe. "Our border controls are not going to be changed, not just because we are being stubborn and difficult, but because we have a wholly different tradition from our continental partners," he said.

Matthew Parris and William Rees-Mogg, page 18 Letters, page 19

Eyes looked to the ceiling in the summit chamber when Major embarked on an economics lecture

Dividing the 15 into half a dozen different camps, not just Britain versus the rest, these are about whether to extend majority voting and curb the veto, the shape of the Commission, the power of the Parliament and schemes for a more "flexible" Europe.

The Dublin summit started the countdown to what Jacques Santer, the Commission President, calls Europe's "moment of truth" at Amsterdam. In ebullient form, John Major predicted that he would be in Amsterdam to wind up

ceiling in the summit chamber when Mr Major embarked on a lecture to his fellow leaders on Friday on the merits of British economic policy, according to French officials.

The conventional Euro-wisdom is that the thorn would be at least partly removed from the European flesh if Britain were governed by Tony Blair. The question widely being asked is whether a Labour government would have enough time in power to fix Britain's position by June. Mr Patijn said: "Any British gov-



A Kazakh fisherman takes shelter inside a plastic tent against the freezing winds while fishing on the frozen Ishim river near Akmol in central Kazakhstan

Coalition partner turns fire on Prodi

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

PROFESSOR Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, returned from the Dublin European Union summit at the weekend to find himself shoring up his tenuous centre-left "Olive Tree" coalition instead of trumpeting Italy's hard-fought progress toward joining the single currency.

Massimo D'Alema, the leader of the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS) — the former Communists and the main party in the coalition — chose Signor Prodi's absence to launch a wide-ranging attack on his leadership, saying the centre-left coalition had lost sight of the reforming ideals with which it was formed two years ago.

In an interview with *La Repubblica*, Signor D'Alema — who has not concealed his prime ministerial ambitions — said the Prodi Government was "not about to fall". But it should rely more on the PDS rather than being reduced to day-to-day management in an attempt to force through a "budget for Europe".

Signor D'Alema said the Government was dependent on the hard-left Rifondazione Communista in the lower house, yet had no programmatic agreement with it. Instead of avoiding the issue, it should open formal talks with the Communists on Italy's bloated public administration, welfare, pensions and constitutional reforms.

City court quashes Milosevic poll win

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND JAMES PATTIFER IN NIS

PRESIDENT Milosevic, the Serbian leader, came under renewed pressure over rigged elections yesterday when up to 250,000 people took to the streets of Belgrade. Their action followed a dramatic court ruling in the southern industrial city of Nis which reinstated the election victory won by the Opposition last month.

The court decided in favour of the opposition coalition, which had appealed against the ruling by the local election commission that the ruling Socialists had won.

The city election commission in Nis, Serbia's second largest city, was accused of forging results in 17 election districts, ensuring victory for the Socialists. Last week Nis district court ordered the election commission to hand over all election documents.

Milo Milic, the recently ousted pro-Milosevic boss of Nis, is a hated figure. He spent taxes to provide his gun-toting entourage with trips to night clubs. The Belgrade protesters vowed to go on demonstrating until the President gave way. The demonstration ended in a huge rally last night.

Zoran Djindjic, a prominent opposition leader, said on the 28th consecutive day of protest against the cancellation last month of local election results: "Our protests will last until Serbia becomes a legal state."



A Serbian boy makes the Orthodox sign of victory at an anti-Milosevic protest in Belgrade yesterday

Yesterday a small group of students from Nis began a symbolic march to Belgrade. The 17 students, representing the 17 electoral districts in Nis where the results were allegedly forged, said their 145-mile march was intended to draw the attention of local and world public opinion.

In a letter to Mr Milosevic, the Nis students said they were determined to stop dictatorship taking over the country. About 130 students from the northern town of Novi Sad finished a 50-mile march to the capital on Saturday.

Earlier, news media controlled by Mr Milosevic accused the demonstrators of being in the service of America, Germany and other powers. Serbian television showed marchers with American and German flags.

Vuk Draskovic, Serbia's chief opposition leader, left for Geneva yesterday to meet John Kornblum, the American envoy for the former Yugoslavia. Mr Milosevic has invited mediators from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to find a solution to the crisis.

Russian greens hail release of nuclear protester

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

RUSSIAN environmentalists hailed the release yesterday from a St Petersburg prison of Aleksandr Nikitin, who had been dubbed the country's first post-Communist political prisoner.

Although charges still stand against Captain Nikitin, environmentalists said they were confident they would now be dropped. However, their long-term goal, a full investigation into levels of radiation in the Kola peninsula in the Russian Arctic, still looks remote.

Captain Nikitin, a former naval officer in the Russian Northern Fleet, had passed information on the parlous state of the nuclear industry in the Murmansk region of the far north to the Norwegian ecological group, Bellona. His detention had become a test case not only for human rights in the post-Communist era but of glasnost in the military-industrial complex.

A year ago Bellona staff members had their homes raided and documents and computer disks were confiscated in a crackdown by the FSB, the successor to the KGB. Then in February Captain Nikitin, who left the navy in 1992, was arrested and accused of being a spy. The charge was "treason against the motherland" which carries a possible death sentence, although the captain was kept in a common cell.

The arrest caused a storm of protest. Bellona accused the

authorities of trying to frighten away attention to an impending ecological crisis in the Murmansk region.

The area has a nightmarish list of problems, which qualify it to be the world's largest nuclear rubbish dump. The amounts of unsafe waste are probably the greatest in the world after spent fuel was regularly disposed of straight into the sea.

Seventy nuclear submarines are rusting in harbour without a proper programme for their upkeep; one of their number, the *Komsomolsk*, caught fire and sank off the Kola peninsula, although a predicted large radiation leak has not occurred. There is also a nuclear plant of Soviet vintage on the peninsula and a huge number of poorly maintained waste dumps.

At Zapadnaya Litsa, the main storage facility for nuclear waste, Bellona says most of the waste was moved to "temporary" open-air containers after an accident in 1982; it has stayed there ever since. Captain Nikitin was not even involved in most of this.

The FSB reverted to old-style tactics in the Nikitin case. Bellona activists were denied visas, while the FSB denied that the arrest had anything to do with Bellona. But the issue had clearly become too politically sensitive to ignore after it was repeatedly raised by the Norwegian Government and the European Parliament.

Yeltsin's economic miseries eased by £6bn from IMF

BY THOMAS DE WAAL

IN AN early new year gift to President Yeltsin, who is due back at work in the next fortnight, the International Monetary Fund agreed to unfreeze its \$10 billion (£6 billion) loan package to Russia at the weekend and the opposition-dominated parliament was cajoled into passing the 1997 budget.

In another sign that the country may be over the worst of months of

economic misery, work has resumed at most pits after an agreement to end the ten-day miners' strike. However, workers at 62 mines, around a quarter of the total, continued the stoppage yesterday and a new strike was declared by air traffic controllers.

The IMF's decision to resume payments of its loan, the second largest in its history, was approved after it noted that a special government commission had raised rates of

tax collection. So far, however, it has only agreed to pay the \$336 million tranche it blocked in October and made no decision for November or December.

Since Mr Yeltsin's re-election in July, the Russian economy has been mired in a non-payments crisis because tax revenues have been so low. As a result, millions of people are destitute because they have not been paid for several months. Statistics

released yesterday put wage arrears by November 25 at 46.62 trillion rubles (£5 billion).

The budget, which was initially opposed by Communists in the State Duma, was passed yesterday in what has become a familiar pattern of opposition deputies allowing themselves to be bought off at the last moment. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, added an extra 30 trillion rubles to a new draft.

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Youth's murderer 'lied in court for Winnie Mandela'

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

WINNIE MANDELA'S tainted past is back under the spotlight after the convicted child murderer Jerry Richardson, one-time head of her notorious Soweto vigilante gang, claimed in an interview at the weekend that he had lied under oath and now intended to tell all.

Richardson, the former coach of the "Mandela United football club", is serving a life sentence for killing Stompie Moeketsi Seipei, 14, the Soweto youth murdered in 1989 after being beaten up at Mrs Mandela's house in the township. In an interview with City Press, a newspaper with a largely black readership, he described himself as the "forgotten man" and spoke of his plans to testify about crimes before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which is investigating apartheid era atrocities.

Under a headline "I lied to save Winnie", Richardson said: "They [the commission] must let me give evidence and I will tell all."

His allegations are serious because they conflict with previous accounts of who was involved in the notorious case. Mandela United was formed in the late 1980s as a personal vigilante gang to protect Mrs Mandela, and Richardson, appointed its leader, was convicted of murdering Stompie.

He was one of four youths who were suspected of being police informers who were kidnapped by him and taken to Mrs Mandela's home on

December 29, 1988, for interrogation. At Mrs Mandela's subsequent trial in 1991, when she was convicted on four counts of kidnapping, the judge found that she had authorised the kidnapping but that she was not at home for the assault. But the circumstances of the kidnapping and murder have remained a subject of contention.

Richardson's counsel admitted during his trial that he had lied to protect Mrs Mandela. Three years ago, in another interview with City Press, he said he would never betray Mrs Mandela, a woman he loved. But prompted by bitterness — she has never visited him in prison — and the prospect that he may be able to obtain amnesty through the truth commission for his past

crimes, he has decided to speak out. Recalling the horrific murder, he said several people were involved in the brutal interrogation of Stompie over four days, at the end of which the youth's face was so swollen he could not speak. He said a group of them took the boy to open veld where he cut his throat with a knife. Richardson said some of those involved in the murder are now in government and another member of the football club is in the South African National Defence Force. He also mentioned how his co-accused, Jubulani Kubbeka, was granted amnesty by the former Government.

The truth commission now has powers to grant amnesty for political crimes committed with a political motive and Richardson has been encouraged by recent developments surrounding successful applications by convicted killers. Brian Mitchell, one of apartheid's most notorious killer policemen, walked free from prison this month after serving just four years of a 30-year sentence for 11 murders after the commission agreed that his crimes were politically motivated. To obtain amnesty applicants must make full disclosure and express remorse for their crimes.

Richardson, whose earlier death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment, said he regretted killing the youth and now realised that he had not been an informer.



Winnie Mandela: sees plot to tarnish her image

Colombia holds Britons over £30m cocaine haul on yacht

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI, SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

THREE Britons have been accused of trying to smuggle cocaine worth an estimated \$50 million (£30 million) from Colombia's northern port of Barranquilla in a luxury yacht named *Perla Mar*.

Michael Hayne, his son Alan and David Maurice Shaw were arrested at the Caribbean port on Friday evening and were yesterday being questioned by the local anti-drugs police which works closely with agents of the US Drugs Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Police found 427lb of best-quality cocaine stashed in the cupboards and hidden under the floorboards of the US-registered yacht which the three men were crewing. "We found cocaine worth at least \$50 million on their yacht. We

do not know where it was destined for, or whether those arrested are a part of a larger ring of traffickers," said General José Rosso Serrano, chief of Colombia's anti-drugs police. General Rosso is famous for his role in capturing the top bosses of the Cali drugs cartel who had long masterminded 80 per cent of the world's cocaine trade.

The Britons are being held at the port city's El Bosque prison and are expected to face questioning over the next few days.

A police spokesman said that Mr Shaw had apparently entered Colombia on various occasions and that Mr Hayne had crossed into the country from Venezuela but did not have valid customs entry stamps.

Barranquilla is a notorious drugs port. Only two months ago police seized the biggest cargo of cocaine to be captured just a few miles offshore, when they boarded a Honduras-registered fishing trawler which had seven tonnes of cocaine hidden in rotting fish.

Colombia's anti-drugs police have in the past year stepped up the anti-drugs war, and started clamping down on traffickers who use a common route across the Caribbean to the United States. It is all part of a wider plan by President Samper, who has given way to American pressure after he was accused of accepting \$6 million from the Cali drugs cartel towards funding his 1994 election campaign.

US 'palace coup' put Annan at UN helm

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE phenomenon is familiar to many members of the United Nations. A superpower ousts the head of state and installs the army commander in his place. The difference this time is that the scenario was played out not in a far-off banana republic but at UN headquarters in New York.

Kofi Annan's appointment as the next UN Secretary-General, due to be confirmed by the General Assembly tomorrow, is the result of an American-sponsored "palace coup" aimed at mending the organisation's battered relations with Washington.

The UN, of course, does not have its own army, but the courtly Mr Annan, an American-educated Ghanaian, ran its closest equivalent, the department of peacekeeping operations, which at its height had 75,000 troops in the field.

For the Americans, Boutros Boutros Ghali had proved a troublesome UN chief. Despite all the talk emanating from Washington about UN reform, it was the huge UN peacekeeping missions in Somalia and Bosnia that led to his downfall. He alienated the American Right by appearing to order US troops into battle in Somalia, and offended the Left by trying to prevent US airstrikes in Bosnia.

Mr Annan was by his boss's side the whole time, but avoided the blame entirely. Identified early as a "rising star", Mr Annan's spectacular ascent through the ranks in recent years owed much to American support. Holding an economics degree from Malacca College, Minnesota, and a master's in management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mr Annan was well qualified to assume senior UN budgetary positions at a time when Washington was seeking thorough UN reform.

When the United States wanted to transfer its peacekeeping mission in Somalia to UN command in 1993, Mr Annan was promoted to the head of the peacekeeping department. He also served, at Washington's behest, as the special UN envoy in Bosnia during the transition from the UN mission to the current Nato-led force.

Dr Boutros Ghali's inner circle became increasingly paranoid about Mr Annan emerging as a pretender to the Secretary-General's throne. Diplomats say that earlier this year Dr Boutros Ghali summoned his peacekeeping chief to ask him whether he was seeking the top UN job.

Mr Annan routinely denied that he was interested in the post, and scrupulously avoided any hint of disloyalty. He got the job anyway.



Rwandan Hutus cross the Rusumo Falls bridge as they make the long trek home

Arafat hits back at Netanyahu charge

FROM ROSS DUNN FROM JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, yesterday both gave warnings of the risk of violent confrontation and blamed each other for raising tensions in the Middle East.

"We have solid information that Palestinians are preparing for a new wave of violence," Mr Netanyahu told Israel Radio, referring to the September riots which left 86 people dead. The Israeli leader was speaking after his Cabinet's decision last week to provide financial incentives to Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr Netanyahu accused Mr Arafat's Palestinian Authority of having no real interest in the peace negotiations and said the Palestinians only

wanted to impose their demands. They included a reduction in the overall size of the Jewish State and a division of Jerusalem into two capitals.

Mr Arafat said in Gaza City that Mr Netanyahu was simply trying to divert attention from his settlements decision. In an interview with the Israeli newspaper, *Yediot Aharonot*, Mr Arafat said the announcement was "a time bomb". He said: "Soon we will not be able to stop the downward slide and once we have counted up the dead we will be back where we started."

He dismissed any idea of meeting Mr Netanyahu at this stage. "What would be the use?" Mr Arafat asked. "Everybody blames him [Mr Netanyahu] but he carries on."

Corsican towns hit in guerrilla raids

Paris: Bombs and gunfire racked Corsica at the weekend when suspected separatists fired from a car at a paramilitary barracks in Bastia, on the Mediterranean island's northern tip (Susan Bell writes). No one was injured in yesterday's pre-dawn raid which left 16 bullet holes in the building's facade.

As the gunmen drove off, they fired at an electricity office. So far no one has claimed responsibility for the attack, but it is believed to be the work of the outlawed Corsican National Liberation Front. Yesterday afternoon a bomb went off in Borgo, near Bastia, damaging a public works company.

New Gulf War 'victims'

Veterans from the Czech Republic Army claim to be suffering "Gulf War syndrome" (Michael Evans writes). The soldiers, from a specialist unit which was responsible for "sniffing out" signs of chemical warfare during the 1991 Gulf War, claim they have had a range of illnesses, including chronic fatigue, hair and teeth loss and severe headaches. Britain and America are investigating claims that thousands of their soldiers are suffering from Gulf War syndrome.

Serious role for actor

Bucharest: Among the leading ministers in the new Government sworn in by Romania's President, Emil Constantinescu, is Ion Caramitru, right, a former actor (Sean Hillen writes). Mr Caramitru, who was in the recent film *Mission Impossible* with Tom Cruise, has been named Minister of Culture. He joined the Romanian delegation to the Dublin summit at the weekend.



Russia warns Chechens

Moscow: Russian officials warned Chechen separatists that the capture of 22 Russian soldiers could halt Moscow's military withdrawal from the region, the RIA news agency said. About 65 Chechens seized the Russians on Saturday, near the Dagestan-Chechnya border. Anatoli Shirko, commander of the Russian Interior Ministry forces, was reported to have said: "The incident had seriously complicated the withdrawal of Russian troops." (Reuters)

38 die in Somali battle

Mogadishu: At least 38 people were killed and more than 90 injured when heavy fighting erupted in the Medina district of Mogadishu, the Somali capital. The fighting, between forces of warlord Hussein Muhammad Aidid and those of rival faction leaders Osman Hassan Ali Amo and Musa Sidi Yalahow, followed a series of clashes last week in the same area. Residents said the fighting began when the Aidid contingent began to loot the main market. (Reuters)

Threat to kill prince

Phnom Penh: Hun Sen, the Cambodian Co-Prime Minister, threatened to shoot down any airliner that brought the exiled Prince Norodom Sirivudh back to Phnom Penh. The half-brother of King Sihanouk, who went into exile in France after allegedly plotting to assassinate Mr Hun Sen, is now determined to return home. Mr Hun Sen said he would only allow Prince Sirivudh to return safely if King Sihanouk pardoned the prince. (Reuters)

Historians vote Clinton less than average leader

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE first Schlesinger poll of leading American historians in more than a decade concluded yesterday that Bill Clinton and his two Republican predecessors were less than average Presidents of the United States.

The ranking, first introduced in 1948 by Arthur Schlesinger, the Harvard historian, was this year accompanied by an interpretation by his son, Arthur Schlesinger Jr., also an historian and a former adviser to President Kennedy.

The younger Schlesinger concluded that Mr Clinton was a highly skilled politician who lacked self-discipline. The President's judgment of people was erratic and the historian deemed Mr Clinton flagrantly opportunistic in his political decisions.

"He rushes to propitiate the audience before him, often at his own expense. His scandals and cover-ups are ripe for exploitation by a vindictive opposition," Mr Schlesinger wrote in *The New York Times*, where the poll was published. "Who can tell how this combination of talents and infirmities will play out? Clinton's

second term offers at once the potential of greatness and the potential of humiliation."

The Schlesinger poll asked a jury of 32 luminaries, including Mario Cuomo, the former Governor of New York, and Doris Kearns Goodwin, the presidential historian, to place every American leader in one of five categories — great, near great, average, below average and failure — based on White House performance. Mr Clinton gained 17 average votes.



Lincoln: acclaimed as the best President

two near greats, two failures and five below average.

President Reagan — who by comparison received seven near greats, 11 average votes, nine below average and four failures — was ranked lower than President Bush, who had 16 average, 12 below average and one failure. All three joined a list including Madison, Taft, Ford and Carter as average (low).

Lincoln, as in past Schlesinger polls, was regarded by scholars as the best President in history. He was joined by Washington and Franklin Roosevelt as the only three greats. Jefferson, Truman, Wilson and Teddy Roosevelt were among the near greats. Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson were included in the average (high) category.

With his domestic policy likely to be hampered by a Republican Congress, Mr Clinton's chances of achieving a better rating in the next scholarly survey appear slim. Mr Schlesinger recommended that he concentrate a second term on an agenda abroad, including renewed commitment to peace in Ireland, the Middle East and Bosnia.

Rifkind tries to kickstart Cyprus peace talks

MALCOLM RIFKIND, the Foreign Secretary, begins talks in Cyprus today with the leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities in an attempt to nudge forward one of the world's most intractable peace negotiations (Michael Binyon writes).

He will have a working breakfast with President Clerides, and then travel across the green line in Nicosia to meet Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, in

an attempt to end the 20-year stalemate on the divided island. It will be the first time for a generation that a British Foreign Secretary has held talks on both sides of the dividing line.

During his two-day visit Mr Rifkind will urge the two communities to define their minimum security requirements as well as the areas over which they have previously been close to agreement. Britain is not proposing a new blueprint,

nor does Mr Rifkind see his visit as a spectacular new British initiative. However, with two important sovereign bases on the island as well as British troops serving with UN forces along the green line, Britain's influence in its former colony is still considerable. The Foreign Secretary hopes permanent members of the UN Security Council will concentrate on the stalled UN plan for a two-zone federated state.

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Pressure on Clinton to strike back against Iran

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE United States has made contingency plans for military strikes against Iran, but the Pentagon said yesterday no action would be taken until defence chiefs received "complete" confirmation linking the Tehran regime to a June bombing of American barracks in Saudi Arabia.

It emerged last week that Louis Freeh, the director of the FBI, had been passed intelligence by the Saudi Arabian Government linking a group of Saudi Shia Muslim extremists to the bombing of the Khobar Towers in Dhahran which killed 19 American airmen.

Confessions of at least 40 of the Shias, combined with electronic eavesdropping by the Saudis, were said to confirm that the group had been sponsored by Iran and had strong connections with Iranian intelligence.

At the same time, reports in Washington stated that Iran was flying at least three 747 cargo jets of weapons and humanitarian supplies to Syria every month for shipment to Hezbollah, the radical Islamic group in Lebanon.

The weapons included the Russian-made Sagger anti-tank missile and long-range Katyusha rockets, which the Israelis claim could be launched from Lebanon as far south as Haifa.

In what is viewed as a growing case against Iran, American intelligence is also convinced that at least two of the Palestinian extremists involved in deadly vehicle bombings against Israel this year had ties to Tehran.

The White House is expecting pressure from Republicans if any concrete link is made showing that Iran sponsored either the bombers in Dhahran or upgraded Hezbollah's arsenal.

Although the Pentagon has tentatively concluded that the Shias were responsible for the Saudi bombing, the evidence must be incontrovertible before any action is taken, officials said. Some intelligence analysts in Washington believe Saudi Arabia, which

was initially uncooperative in providing information to America about the Dhahran incident, is making a deliberate attempt to destabilise Iran.

"We have to be sure what we're getting into here," said a senior member of the National Security Council. "All the information from Saudi Arabia must be confirmed by us and others before anything is considered."

Nonetheless, the Pentagon, which wants to be ready in the case of any eventuality, is said to be in the advanced stages of planning for a tailor-made response to Iran which might include strategic attacks on guerrilla training camps identified by the CIA.

According to some Western media reports, Pentagon plans call for the use of cruise missiles launched from aircraft carriers deployed in the Gulf, or Stealth fighters operating from a base in Saudi Arabia.

British officials in Washington said they were aware of any "detailed plan" and are not expecting any immediate response. Preliminary soundings have been made among the European allies, but yesterday there appeared to have been no active consultation.

All sides are aware that the policy of "critical dialogue" with Iran has failed, but the Clinton Administration, which sent a belated message to Tehran earlier this year over Dhahran, does not want to drive the Islamic country even further from the West.

Republicans on Capitol Hill have remained unusually silent on the issue of Dhahran and are thought to be waiting until Mr Clinton's new national security team is in place before pressing for action.

Even then, they may find it hard to criticise any indecision on the part of the Pentagon, whose new Defence Secretary is William Cohen, the retiring senator for Maine who is also the only Republican appointee to President Clinton's new Cabinet.

Leading article, page 19

Threat by Khamenei to pro-US Gulf states

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAN's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has said that an attack by the United States would have dire consequences for the entire oil-rich Gulf region.

In a speech on Saturday to the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, the country's main fighting force, Ayatollah Khamenei said: "The American Administration... has decided to strike. They did not say so but evidence indicates this."

Iranian officials and businessmen speculated that targets could include Iran's unfinished nuclear reactor at Bushehr, oil facilities, a network of camps that Washington alleges are used to train foreign terrorists, and two disputed islands in the Gulf which Tehran has heavily fortified in recent months.

"If [the US] should know that the region can have tranquillity only when Iran has tranquillity," said Ayatollah Khamenei in a speech that was broadcast live on Tehran radio. Referring to the US as the Great Satan, he issued a thinly veiled warning against Saudi Arabia and the oil-rich sheikhdoms across the Gulf from Iran.

"Any aggression or attempts to make Islamic Iran insecure will make the Persian Gulf more insecure for the enemies of the Iranian nation, particularly those living in glass houses."

Iran has vehemently denied any direct or indirect involvement in the Saudi bombing, insisting that Tehran is being made the scapegoat for a home-grown terrorist problem in the pro-US kingdom.



Khamenei forecast dire consequences for region



The Bright Field freighter is held steady by tugs after she crashed into a New Orleans dock, wrecking a building but missing other vessels

Shoppers flee as runaway freighter rams mall

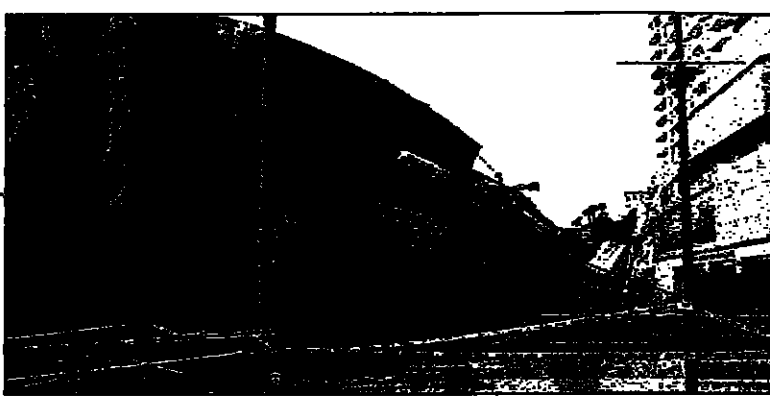
FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

POLICE divers searched the waters of the River Mississippi for bodies yesterday after a 68,000-tonne freighter crashed into a waterfront shopping centre in New Orleans.

The out-of-control ship, the Liberian-registered Bright Field, sounded its klaxons repeatedly before it smashed into the shopping centre. Hundreds of people ran from the path of the grain-laden vessel, which crushed a 100-yard stretch of metal-and-glass buildings.

The incident occurred at lunchtime on Saturday as Christmas shoppers crowded the Louisiana city's surrounding French quarter — one of the most popular tourist spots in the United States. The 763ft Bright Field was manoeuvring in a notoriously fast-moving stretch of the Mississippi when her power failed.

When the crew realised what was happening, they sounded all available



The bows of the grain-laden vessel after the quayside collision

horns and hooters to warn bankside pedestrians. The pilot was unable to prevent the heavy vessel ploughing into the quayside, but managed to steer the Bright Field clear of other river traffic, including a casino ship which was full of gamblers, and two cruise boats. As the freighter struck the

bank, there was a great ripping and much confusion as glass splinters flew through the air, shop walls crumbled and people screamed. The ship was holed in the bow but was swiftly secured by tugs.

New Orleans is not only a busy port but is also a popular destination for

day trippers and shoppers. Coastguards initially reported that six people had been killed, but later said there were no confirmed deaths.

Witnesses said some people jumped into the water as the ship approached the quay, but after extensive searches no bodies were found. A troop of Girl Scouts, said to have been crushed in the confusion, were found alive and well, if a little dusty and surprised.

A local councillor, Oliver Thomas, said that the Riverwalk Mall shopping centre was now "like a pancake — where there was a wharf, there is now water". A veteran Mississippi river captain, "Doc" Hawley, had praise for the pilot who steered the Bright Field clear of all other vessels. The freighter missed the casino boat by a mere 70ft, and some gamblers leapt off her decks into the river after a loudspeaker announcement that it was time to abandon ship.

Mr Hawley said: "When you see how he avoided those cruise ships and the casino, it was beautiful work."

Rival Anglican bishops in Quito church tug of war

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN QUITO, ECUADOR

THE Anglican Church in Ecuador has been divided over who is its rightful bishop. Is he the clergyman recognised by the Archbishop of Canterbury? Or is he a mercurial priest who claims to be financed by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader?

"It is totally absurd," said the Rev Nephtali Larrea, the Canterbury-backed bishop, at his office next to the Anglican Cathedral of The Lord in Quito. "We have tried to be very prudent, but I don't know how much longer we can put up with it."

Across the city at the fortress-like Church of St Nicholas, the Libyan-backed pretender, the Rev Walter Crespo, called Señor Larrea "a sewer of insinuations and falsehoods".

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, sought to put the matter to rest in October when, after meet-

ing Señor Larrea, he said: "Bishop Walter Crespo is not, nor ever has been, a bishop of the Anglican Communion."

Undaunted, Señor Crespo says he refuses to recognise Dr Carey's authority, calling him an "obstinate heretic". Standing by a portrait of the Queen, he claimed: "We are not dissidents. We are the historic Anglican Church of Ecuador."

Señor Crespo blames the situation on a series of ruptures dating back to the Church's decision in the late 1950s to transfer jurisdiction over Ecuador to the Episcopalians, its American sister church. While the Church of England has deep roots in the Catholic tradition, the Episcopal Church is Protestant-based.

Tensions increased with the Anglican Church's decision to allow the ordination of women, and later homosexuals and lesbians. But his

critics say Señor Crespo's case for legitimacy is as thin as Quito's mountain air.

After enrolling in several Episcopal seminaries in America in the late 1970s, his studies were suspended for alleged misconduct. He was later ordained by a small group of "traditionalist" priests who had broken away from the official Church over the ordination of women. But the relationship ended in mutual recrimination, and Señor Crespo was stripped of holy orders for conduct "unbecoming a priest".

In 1991, Señor Crespo also became the subject of a criminal investigation into immigration fraud in New Jersey where he ran a legal aid service for Hispanic immigrants. He was never charged, but returned to Ecuador after being named Bishop of Quito by another Anglican splinter group.

At about the same time Señor Crespo accepted an offer by Libyan authorities to become the Bishop of Libya, which came with an expense account provided by the Gaddafi regime.

Señor Crespo says his relationship with Libya goes back to a serious car accident he had with a Libyan diplomat while working as a lawyer at the United Nations in Geneva. Señor Crespo had to have plastic surgery, paid for by Libya. He now divides his duties between Ecuador and Libya and has described Colonel Gaddafi as "a great man loved by his people."



Señor Crespo: appointed bishop by splinter group



Señor Larrea: backed by Dr George Carey

Doubt cast on writer's 'suicide'

BY QUENTIN LETTS

MYSTERY surrounds the death of a leading American crime writer, whose corpse was found swinging from a Chicago skyscraper last week.

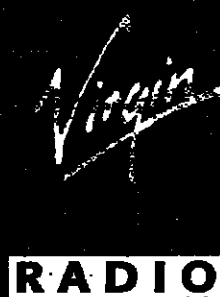
As first the death of Eugene Izz, better known under his nom de plume of Nick Gattano, was reckoned to be

suicide. The setting was a little gothic, but that was in keeping with the dark, brooding crime thrillers with which he made his name. Detectives have now disclosed, however, that the 43-year-old writer was found wearing a bullet-proof jacket, had knuckle-dusters in his pocket, a can of disabling pepper spray, and \$481 (£292). A handgun was

found at his ransacked office, and friends said that he seemed to be in fear of attack — perhaps from an Indiana militia group he had recently infiltrated in his quest for authentic thriller material.

No suicide note was found. But could such a natural writer have resisted penning one if he had really been on the verge of taking his life?

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New superconductor hope proves premature

Crossed circuits

REPORTS last week that French scientists had discovered a superconductor which operates at room temperature stirred a brief flurry of excitement, but appear to have been premature. The evidence they have gathered is interesting, but falls a long way short of proof, while the release of the data before publication has caused embarrassment. The French Academy of Sciences, to whose *Proceedings* the paper had been submitted, is meeting today to decide whether to release the paper to the press early.

The material involved is lithium beryllium hydride (LiBeH₃), better known as a potential rocket fuel. Last week's reports emerged after a member of the team gave a talk attended by a reporter from a French provincial paper. The story was picked up by Reuters and spread around the world. But later Dr Alain Mauger of Paris University, one of the scientists involved, conceded that the team had not even measured the conductivity of the hydride. "We have no proof at all that this compound is a superconductor," he said. "We are scandalised by the alerting of the press before our paper is even accepted."

The team, which includes researchers from the National Institute of Applied Science in Lyons, the Atomic Energy Commission in Paris and the National Centre of Scientific Research in Meudon, have found magnetic anomalies suggestive of superconductivity. At roughly room temperature (25C) the powdered hydride



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

exhibited an unusual effect, called magnetic irreversibility, in which its magnetic properties changed in a manner dependent on an external magnetic field. This effect is also seen in copper oxide-based superconductors at the temperatures at which they become superconductors.

In addition, the French team measured a change in the specific heat of the compound at the critical temperature, something that is also seen in established superconductors. So far, they have not actually measured the electrical resistance or shown that it falls to zero at the critical temperature, and there are reasons to doubt that it does.

The notion that lithium beryllium hydride might be a superconductor was first suggested about ten years ago by Dr Albert Overhauser of Purdue University, in Indiana, but attempts to prove it by Dr Paul Chu at the University of Houston failed. The implications of a room temperature superconductor are hard to overstate. All electrical resistance disappears, enabling the construction of highly-efficient machines and loss-free transmission lines. All proven superconductors work at such low temperatures that they require constant cooling. A room temperature superconductor would be a real revolution.

Pollutants that may lead to impotence

WORRIES about gender-bending chemicals in the environment will be heightened by experiments recently reported to the American Society for Cell Biology. Dr Fredric Bookdor and Dr Charles Blake of the University of South Carolina injected rats three times weekly with 20mg of octylphenol, an ingredient used in textile manufacture and commonly found in the environment.

The rats showed a roughly four-fold increase in sperm abnormalities and a 50 per cent decrease in sperm count after a month of treatment. After two months, the animals' reproductive organs were shrivelled and unable to produce any sperm at all. The amounts of the chemical injected are roughly comparable with the levels found in the fatty tissue of fish in some polluted US rivers.

Whether such chemicals have anything to do with changes in human health, such as diminishing sperm counts and the increase in testicular cancer, remains a matter of controversy. But Dr Bookdor says: "Things like this could be contributing to the decline in human reproductive potential."

Pressure theory skates on thin ice

EVERYBODY knows that skates slide on ice because the pressure of the blades melts the surface layer. Except that they don't. "It doesn't work out," says Dr Michel van Hove, of Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in California. "You put data in the formula, and there's not enough pressure."

So why is ice slippery? According to Dr van Hove and his colleague Dr Gabor Somorjai, it is because the surface layer is always molten. Though bound firmly to the solid layers of ice beneath, the molecules in the top layer vibrate three or four times faster than those in the ice proper. The team, whose results are soon to appear in the journal *Surface Science*, bombarded the surface of ice with electrons, expecting to see a diffraction signature for the first three layers of ice molecules. They were puzzled when they saw only two, but decided this was because the molecules in the top layer were vibrating so hard the signal was blurred.

The finding, says Dr Steve George of the University of Colorado, "illustrates how we don't understand the simplest things."



The computer model will reflect several aspects of ageing; practice, for instance, preserves cognitive ability — exercising the brain keeps it young

Old grey matter test

As people grow old, some appear able to remain reasonably lucid while others show clear signs of losing their faculties. Anjana Ahuja reports on a project to discover why

You will find it harder to remember your new year resolutions next year. You will not have felt it, but some of your brain cells have died and your demise has led to subtle rearrangements in the complex web of links that allow you to think, feel and recall.

In simple terms, your brain has aged. The effects may be imperceptible from one year to the next, but by the time we slide into old age, our mental faculties have dwindled noticeably. However, one aspect of growing older has always mystified experts — just as a few lucky individuals retain the beauty of their youth, why do some people remain more lucid than others?

Psychologists at the universities of Birmingham and Manchester have embarked on an ambitious project to find out. They plan to simulate the effects of ageing on the human brain. The "brain" under study is a computer model built from hundreds of processing units. Each unit represents a neuron, or brain cell. The units are interconnected in a neural network. This is a sophisticated breed of computer algorithm which allows a model to learn from past experience, just as a human being does. Thus, the artificial brain mimics, in a simplified way, the human brain. Ageing is simple — just prune the number of connections to simulate cell death.

Neural networks also allow different tasks to be carried out by different parts of the network. Again, there are parallels with the human brain — different mental abilities age at different rates and in different ways. Many studies show that specific mental skills are associated with specific brain regions. But this is no whimsical exercise in artificial intelligence.

To make it realistic, the model must be able to mirror the trends shown by real people, which can be gleaned from past studies. The model will also be pitted against a group of elderly volunteers. The computer model will have to reflect several well-known aspects of ageing. The first is that cognitive ability declines ever more steeply as we get older. The second is that as we age the variation in mental ability between people becomes wider.

The third is that practice seems to preserve cognitive ability, so that exercising the brain somehow keeps it young. The fourth is that, according to large-scale experimental studies, the speed at which our brains degenerate seems to be related to IQ.

The three-year, £120,000 project, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, is headed by Glyn Humphreys, from Birmingham University, and Par Rabbitt, who runs the Age and Cognitive Performance Research Centre at Manchester University. Professor Rabbitt and his research team have compiled data on 6,500 volunteers between the ages of 50 and 96.

Although the project started just four months ago, fascinating results have already started to emerge. One hundred volunteers, ranging in age from 50 to 75, were given lists of letters which were

arranged in patterns. By looking through many examples, the volunteers learnt to recognise the patterns, or "artificial grammar", hidden in the letters. They were then shown letter sequences that either complied with or broke these grammatical rules.

When asked to repeat the test some time later, older participants could recall the rules, and therefore still complete the task, but could not remember whether they had seen specific examples before. "The volunteers seemed to have an implicit understanding of these artificial rules and were able to judge grammar, but couldn't recall where it came from," Professor Humphreys says.

This finding has straightforward comparisons — we seem to be hard-wired for language, in that our capacity to communicate does not diminish greatly with age. Language is an example of what experts call a crystallised ability — once we have learnt it, it hardens or crystallises in our brain. These are distinct from so-called fluid abilities. "These relate to thinking on your feet," Professor Humphreys says. "As we get older, fluid abilities become more problematic; we are hoping that the model will capture that. It might even shed light on why language is crystallised rather than fluid."

However, the distinction between these two types of

mental ability has aroused great debate. Even though language is classed as a crystallised ability, some aspects do suffer as we mature. For example, an older person may take longer to retrieve a word from memory; even though the vocabulary is still there, information processing speed or working memory capacity has dwindled.

Some psychologists have suggested that one of these qualities — either information processing speed or memory capacity — is the master skill which decays with age, and this primary deterioration leads to decline in all cognitive abilities. This notion of a master skill fits with the finding that people with higher IQs age better, mentally speaking, than their low IQ counterparts.

Psychologists also hope to find evidence for one encouraging feature of ageing — that practising cognitive skills keeps them in shape. They will test this theory in the artificial brain by "weighting" neurons according to how much they are used. Neurons with low weights will be selectively killed off. Well used neurons, such as those dealing with language, will have higher weights, and therefore resist pruning.

If the pattern of performance by the artificial brain matches that shown by the volunteers, Professor Humphreys notes, it will be empirical evidence that a few brain-teasers a day can help to keep mental decline at bay.

Our brains seem to be hard-wired for language

Having a hell of a good time

In a computerised world, the writer Kurt Vonnegut still enjoys using paper, pencils and a typewriter

IN an interview with Kurt Vonnegut in the November issue of *Inc. Technology*, he was asked to discuss his feelings about living in an increasingly computerised world.

I work at home, and if I wanted to, I could have a computer right by my bed, and I'd never have to leave it. But I use a typewriter, and afterwards I mark up the pages with a pencil. Then I call up this woman named Carol out in Woodstock and say: "Are you still doing typing?" Sure she is, and her husband is trying to track bluebirds out there and not having much luck, and so we chit-chat back and forth, and I say, "Okay, I'll send you the pages."

Then I go down the steps and my wife calls, "Where are you going?" "Well," I say, "I'm going to buy an envelope."

And she says, "You're not a poor man. Why don't you buy a thousand envelopes? They'll deliver them, and you can put them in the closet." And I say, "Hush." So I go to this newsstand across the street where they sell magazines and lottery tickets and stationery. I have to get in line because there are people buying candy and all that sort of thing, and I talk to them.

The woman behind the counter has a jewel between her eyes, and when it's my turn, I ask her if there have been any big winners lately. I get my envelope and seal it up and go to the postal convenience center down the block at the corner of 47th Street and 2nd Avenue, where I'm secretly in love with the woman behind the counter. I keep absolutely poker-faced. I never let her know how I feel about her. One time I had my

pocket picked in there and got to meet a cop and tell him about it. Anyway, I address the envelope to Carol in Woodstock. I stamp the envelope and mail it in a mailbox in front of the post office, and I go home.

And I've had a hell of a good time. I tell you, we are here on Earth to fart around, and don't let anybody tell you any different.



Shopping trip: Vonnegut

What my older, wiser brother said about "IMPOTENCE"

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TODAY IN THE TIMES • GREAT SEASON OF SPORT

TRYING TIMES

England's stumbling win over Argentina raises yet more questions: David Hands reports PAGE 31

DOWNHILL RACERS

Austria to the fore as the ski season opens in Val d'Isère PAGE 25

FOUR FOR FOWLER

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TIME TO GO, BOWE
Srikumar Sen calls time on a boxing career PAGE 24

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY DECEMBER 16 1996

ZIMBABWE STRIKE ANOTHER EMBARRASSING ONE-DAY BLOW

England signal a lack of flair

FROM SIMON WILDE
IN BULAWAYO

BULAWAYO (Zimbabwe won toss): Zimbabwe beat England by two wickets

ANOTHER hand played, another trick lost. England were beaten for the third time in 15 days on their tour of Zimbabwe when they met their host's national side in the first one-day international here at Queens Sports Club yesterday and lost a tense, absorbing contest by two wickets with 25 balls to spare. The result was narrow, but it flattered them greatly.

Shortly after the finish, however, Michael Atherton, the England captain, dismissed the outcome of the game — which gave Zimbabwe their third win in four meetings with England, a remarkable record for a country that has only won eight out of 63 such matches in its history — as having any relevance to the Test series between the teams starting on Wednesday. If only he were right.

He preferred to describe Zimbabwe's startling one-day record against England as a "jinx".

If only he were right about that, too. Zimbabwe added to the defeats by a President's XI and Mashonaland early this month not because they are more talented, but because they are more determined, as they showed at every turn yesterday. They also have the

Saqlain's magic spell 24

tireless work and thoughtful preparation of David Houghton and Alistair Campbell, respectively Zimbabwe's player-coach and captain.

Houghton said on the eve of this match that if Zimbabwe could bowl a tight line England would not have the flair to score the necessary runs. His bowlers did not let him down and he was proved right. England, put in, began brightly and were 40 for one after nine overs but their innings soon withered and they were all out for 152 with 26 balls unused. They forced a good rearguard action, having Zimbabwe 106 for seven at one point, but such a paltry total is as good as indefensible in one-day cricket.

Atherton appeared to be at the heart of England's flair by-pass. After Knight and Stewart were removed by the combative Streak, he found himself unable to get the ball away from a pitch that only helped the bowlers early in the day. He did not score his first run for 24 balls and, in all, spent 77 balls making 23.

Admittedly he had no sooner come in than he lost Thorpe, seriously promoted ahead of Hussain to No 4 and bowled by an inswinger from Brandes, essaying a loose drive. He and Hussain, who would stay for the remainder of the innings for an unbeaten 49, thus had to begin a rebuilding process, singing — they thought — for a total of around 200. Faced with bowlers who were disciplined and using the slower ball imaginatively, England chose their shots badly, however, and that target had to be regularly revised downwards until, in the end, they were grateful to reach 150.

That Zimbabwe made such hard work of overhauling England's total had less to do with the pitch than some fiery bowling at the start of the innings from Silverwood, who made an impres-



Gough, typifying the brittleness of the England batting when under pressure, is run out by Flower while yards short of making his ground. Photograph: Howard Burditt

sive international debut, and in the middle of it from Gough and Mullally. More important still was their own fear of chasing runs in limited-overs cricket.

Though Atherton had a poor game as a batsman — he should not have even lasted as long as he did as an electrical failure deprived the umpires access to television replays, which would have shown him run out on 15 — he enjoyed a good day as captain and deployed his forces well in difficult circumstances.

His decision to withdraw Croft, who had been punished by Waller, the pinch-hitter who actually batted sensibly through 29 overs for 48, and recall Gough when Houghton — a good player of spin — came in worked perfectly,

Houghton chipping to Crawley in the covers.

From then on Zimbabwe started to give away wickets as profusely as England. They appeared to lose heart, as well they might, Campbell having damaged a finger on his right hand and gashed a cheek when colliding with Guy Whittall during pre-match practice. They spent most of the day trying to beat England with ten men, Campbell not intending to bat unless necessary.

It became necessary when Zimbabwe were 97 for five and he duly came in and played the innings that decided the match. An unbeaten 32 that won him the man-of-the-match award. He was given valuable help by Streak, who put on 31 with him for the eighth wicket

and saw off Gough. With Silverwood and Mullally already bowled out, the most dangerous of England's bowlers were then finished.

When England reflect on this disheartening defeat they must also ask themselves whether they chose the right team. Caddick and Tufnell were omitted rather than Irani, who was put through a fitness test shortly before the game. He actually bowled reasonably enough, but did not really threaten to take wickets and taking wickets was, in the event, England's only escape route. Such strategic thoughts might occupy Ian Botham, their unofficial motivational guru, who arrived here on Saturday and helped the bowlers prepare yesterday.

SCOREBOARD FROM BULAWAYO	
<p>ENGLAND</p> <p>N V Knight bow b Streak 13 (22min, 20 balls, 2 fours)</p> <p>1A J Stewart c A Flower b Streak 26 (45min, 33 balls, 4 fours)</p> <p>1A M Atherton c Streak b Whittall 23 (67min, 77 balls, 2 fours)</p> <p>G P Thorpe b Brandes 1 (14min, 10 balls)</p> <p>N Hussain not out 49 (126min, 86 balls, 1 four)</p> <p>J P Crawley c Campbell b Rennie 10 (22min, 20 balls, 1 four)</p> <p>R C Irani c and b Rennie 7 (1min, 1 ball)</p> <p>A D Mullally c and b Rennie 0 (1min, 1 ball)</p> <p>R D B Croft c G W Flower b Streak 0 (6min, 2 balls)</p> <p>D Gough run out (Streak/A Flower) 8 (13min, 12 balls)</p> <p>C E W Silverwood c Houghton b Streak 1 (8min, 13 balls)</p> <p>Extras (lb 5, w 3, nb 4) 12</p> <p>Total (45.4 overs, 187min) 152</p>	
<p>FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28 (Stewart 15), 2-41 (Atherton 21), 3-47 (Atherton 21), 4-96 (Hussain 23), 5-124 (Hussain 26), 6-134 (Hussain 42), 7-134 (Hussain 42), 8-135 (Hussain 43), 9-150 (Hussain 48).</p> <p>BOWLING: Brandes 8-2-25-1 (4 fours, 3-1-15-0, 5-1-13-1); Rennie 8-1-27-3 (w 2, 3 fours, 5-1-15-0, 2-0-11-3); Streak 9-1-30-3 (nb 5, w 1; 2 fours, 6-1-15-2, 3-0-15-1); Whittall 5-0-17-0 (nb 1; 1 four, one spell); Streak 6-4-1-27-1 (1 four, 7-0-24-0, 2-4-1-3-1); G W Flower 5-0-17-1 (one spell).</p>	
<p>ZIMBABWE</p> <p>G W Flower b Silverwood 14 (44min, 35 balls, 1 four)</p> <p>A C Waller run out (Hussain/Silverwood) 48 (137min, 71 balls, 8 fours)</p> <p>1A Flower c Knight b Silverwood 10 (36min, 25 balls, 1 four)</p> <p>D L Houghton c Crawley b Gough 2 (17min, 11 balls)</p> <p>C N Evans c Stewart b Gough 1 (18min, 8 balls)</p> <p>G J Whittall c Stewart b Mullally 13 (33min, 29 balls, 1 four)</p>	
<p>FALL OF WICKETS: 1-33 (Waller 12), 2-58 (Waller 26), 3-73 (Waller 34), 4-87 (Waller 46), 5-97 (Whittall 8), 6-106 (Campbell 4), 7-106 (Campbell 4), 8-137 (Campbell 24).</p> <p>BOWLING: Mullally 10-2-24-2 (w 3, 3 fours, 8-1-20-0, 2-1-4-2); Gough 10-2-31-2 (nb 1, w 1, 4 fours, 4-0-17-0, 4-3-8-2, 2-0-8-0); Silverwood 10-0-27-2 (3 fours, 6-0-21-2, 4-0-6-0); Croft 5-0-32-1 (1 four, 4 fours, 1-0-5-0, 1-0-11-0, 3-0-16-1); Irani 5-1-25-0 (5 fours, 4-1-10-0, 1-0-11-0, 1-0-4-0); Thorpe 2-1-5-0 (one spell).</p> <p>Match award: A D R Campbell</p> <p>Umpires: G J Goosen and R B Tiffin</p> <p>□ Compiled by Bill Frisell</p>	



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BOXING: DISQUALIFICATION OF GOLOTA SPARES BLUSHES OF FORMER CHAMPION IN STEEP DECLINE

Hollow win sounds out warning to Bowe

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT IN ATLANTIC CITY

THE career of Riddick Bowe as a world force is effectively over. He emerged the winner of his second bout with Andrew Golota, of Poland, again on a disqualification, here on Saturday, but it was clear that he has little left to take him through another contest. Three brutal fights with Evander Holyfield and uncontrolled eating have taken their toll.

He was trailing on all three judges' cards at the time of the stoppage in the ninth round — 75-71, 75-73, 74-72 — despite picking up extra points when Golota was penalised for butting and low blows. If Rock Newman, Bowe's manager, knows what is best for his man, he will tell him to retire. Bowe's mother, Dorothy, wants him to quit, but, since Newman was quoting the case of Evander Holyfield, he will almost certainly encourage him to fight on.

Bowe mounted only one serious attack in the contest, in the fourth, when he put Golota down, but it was clear from the second round that Bowe simply cannot take a punch anymore. The slightest jab would send him staggering backwards like a man on the deck of a ship that is pitching and rolling.

Golota had several chances — in the second, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth — to knock Bowe out, but he simply could not put him away. He has not learnt how to finish off a man in trouble. Golota just kept hitting him with arm punches and looking at him wondering what to do next. A finisher like Lennox Lewis would have wrapped up the bout after Bowe was knocked down in the second round. What was remarkable about that was that Golota caught Bowe with a little clip on the chin, but Bowe went down as if he had been hit by a wrecking ball.

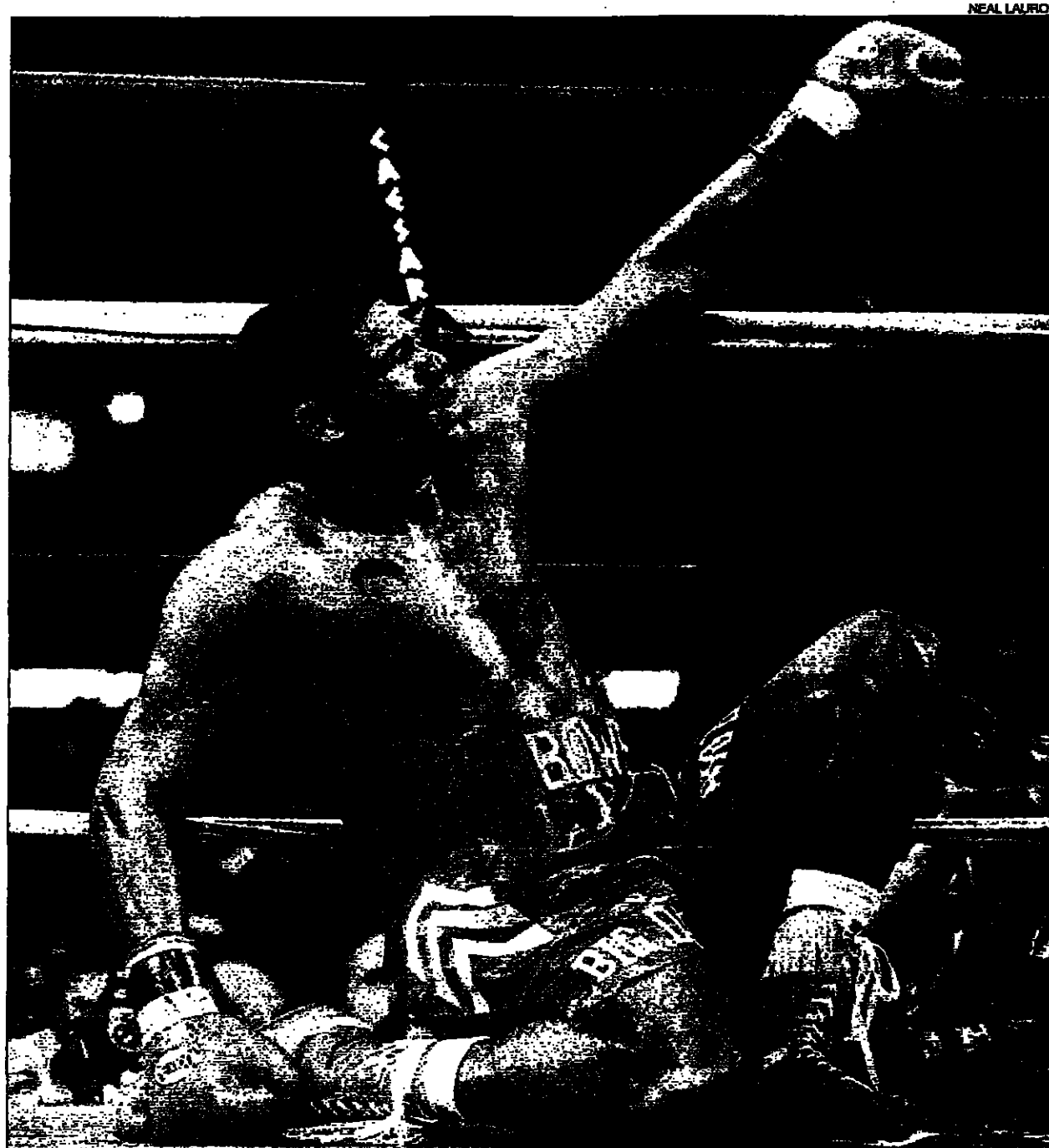
Bowe's hollow victory just about keeps alive his chances of meeting Lewis in a \$25 million (about £16 million) contest. Nobody else will give Bowe \$12 million on this showing.

If Bowe ducks Lewis, the latter will have lost about \$40 million in missed matches during his career. After matches with Tommy Morrison (\$7.5 million), Bowe (\$12 million) and Holyfield (\$8 million) had fallen through — Morrison was beaten by Michael Bentt, Lewis lost to Oliver McCall and Holyfield was beaten by Bowe — Lewis was hoping for \$12 million from a bout with Bowe.

The demise of Bowe was foreseen by Eddie Futch, the famous trainer, who left Bowe after the first contest with Golota, in July, which followed a remarkably similar pattern to this one. Futch said: "He was ruined when he was taken on a world tour when he first won the title. He lost touch with the gym. If he had stayed back and followed what I was teaching him, there's no telling how great he might have been."

It would be nice to report, after Golota's second moral victory, that a new power is among us, but this performance showed that Golota has a lot to learn. Though big and strong, he is raw when it comes to standing toe-to-toe. When frustrated he resorts to butting or hitting low.

He suffered a double setback in the second when he butted Bowe. He was penalised a point and his left eye was badly gashed. In the fourth he lost another point by sending Bowe to the floor with a low blow. A round later Bowe suffered a genuine knockdown, when Golota connected with a right hand. By the ninth Golota's corner knew that he was



Bowe sinks to the canvas in anguish and disbelief after suffering a low blow from Golota in the fourth round

Andries left with nowhere to go

well in front and told him simply to box and move and on no account to go for the body.

There were loud cries of "Oh, no!" when, under pressure from Bowe, Golota forgot his instructions and struck low again. Bowe went over and there was no chance of his getting up until Eddie Cotton, the referee, had declared him the winner on a foul.

Later, in his dressing-room, Golota hit his head repeatedly saying, "I'm stupid, I'm stupid." Lou Duva, his trainer, said: "I just don't know what to do, short of putting him in with a midge next time."

A DOOR on one boxing career was flung open in Sheffield on Saturday while another must surely have been slammed for good. Ryan Rhodes, just 24 days beyond his twentieth birthday, became the youngest British champion for 57 years by lifting the vacant light-middleweight crown. He was immediately tipped for a future world title by Frank Warren, the promoter.

Less than an hour earlier Warren had advised the veteran Dennis Andries to announce his retirement, after the "Hackney Rock" went down in the seventh round of a one-sided vacant British cruiserweight title challenge to Johnny Nelson, 29.

Andries declined the invitation and refused to quit there and then. "I want to think about it," Andries, a former World Boxing Council light-heavyweight champion, said. The hard thinking, though, should now be done by the British Board of Control. It was painfully clear that, aged somewhere around 46, one of

Britain's most big-hearted and dedicated professionals really has nowhere left to go.

Rhodes, having only his eleventh bout, finished off Paul Jones with a stunning, double right hand in the eighth round. This time last year Jones was World Boxing Organisation champion.

"I was concerned about taking this fight because only a year ago Jones was a world champion," Warren said. "Provided he [Rhodes] lives a fighter's life, he's going to win a world title."

Hollioake puts his name into England frame

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ADAM HOLLIOAKE, the Surrey all-rounder, not only established himself as a Test player in the making on the England A tour of Australia but also became a long-term candidate for the England captaincy.

After defeat by a weak New South Wales XI in the opening match, England A rallied so strongly under Hollioake's vibrant leadership that they were unbeaten in the other nine matches on tour.

Hollioake scored more than 400 runs and took 17 wickets, despite being troubled by a left-ankle problem that prevented him from operating at full pace. After carrying the injury for three years, Hollioake is to have an operation this winter to put it right.

His performance as captain and player impressed Mike Gatting, the coach, who led England to their last Ashes success, in Australia ten years ago.

"I think he can become England captain," Gatting said. "He leads from the front and people respect him for that. His tactical side is good, and he will learn by captaining more often. He got everyone to work for him, and that is the most important thing."

Hollioake led Surrey on five occasions last season when Alec Stewart was absent. "I've said all along that I don't strive for the captaincy," he said. "It's not an ambition of mine. I love doing it, but I also enjoy just playing the game. Alec's a great captain and I've picked up a lot from Mike Gatting and David Graveney [the tour manager], but it's still a learning curve."

"I think I improved tactically as the tour went on. Attacking is probably my strength as a captain, but I've learnt when it's right to sit back and defend."

"David [Graveney] talked to me about setting a field to a left-arm spinner, which I've never really had to do at Surrey but 'Gat' never came up and told me to do this and that."

"He's let me come to him and ask, and although we

haven't chatted for hours and hours — which I think sometimes can be wasteful — when we have sat down, we've got through a lot."

Mark Butcher, Hollioake's Surrey colleague, Dean Headley, the Kent fast bowler, and Craig White, of Yorkshire, who re-established himself as an all-rounder of international quality, were other successes.

Butcher scored more than 600 runs on the trip and, although he failed to convert any of his seven half-centuries into three figures, he enhanced his reputation.

Headley, who was outstanding on the A tour to Pakistan last year, again proved himself to be a bowler of Test quality, but he will have to overcome the hip complaint that brought his tour to a premature end before he can be considered as a possible successor to White, the player with most to prove, having been discarded by England two years ago, responded with more than 350 runs and 16 wickets, including a career-best six for 66 against Queensland, and could yet fill the problem position in the England side.

"I'd like to think one or two of the A team players might be pushing for a place and, hopefully, what they have learnt on the tour will give them a better idea of what is required when they come up against Australia," Gatting said.



Hollioake: operation

CRICKET

Australia bow to Saqlain

IT WAS expected to be a duel between Shane Warne and Mushtaq Ahmed, the world's best leg spinners, but, in the event, it was Saqlain Mushtaq, 20, an off spinner, who took the honours and guided Pakistan to victory in the one-day international with Australia in Adelaide yesterday. Saqlain tore through Australia's lower order in a remarkable second spell to finish with career-best figures of five for 29 from 9.5 overs to launch Pakistan to a thrilling 12-run win.

"He's the best off spinner I've seen in recent years," Wasim Akram, the Pakistan captain, said of his young matchwinner afterwards. "The secret is the ball he bowls away from the right hand — he pitches it and it goes away instead of coming in."

Chasing the Pakistan score of 223, Australia's hopes were dashed when Saqlain took four wickets for 13 runs from 11 balls — Steve Waugh, for 57, Tom Moody, for eight, Shane Warne, for 11, and Ian Healy, for four — to have Australia all out for 211 in 47.5 overs. Saqlain has claimed 74 wickets from 16 international limited-over games at an average of 18.54.

Habitual winners rarely make graceful losers, and Australian cricketers very rarely do, a fact illustrated by the reaction of Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, to what was his team's first defeat of the summer. "I think it was our worst performance in the past month," Taylor, who made 28 before becoming Saqlain's first victim, said. "A loss can sometimes do some good. It shows that, if we don't play at our best, we can get beaten. There's no room for complacency or big-headedness in this game."

Aamir Sohail, who made 67, had given Pakistan an encouraging start to their innings, but the rest of the batsmen struggled, with Warne enjoying most success for Australia, finishing with four for 52. Pakistan play the West Indies in the triangular series tomorrow.

Under-19s plump for safe route

THE England Under-19 touring team opted for some batting practice after bowling out their opponents cheaply on the second day of the three-day match against Lahore CCA Under-19s yesterday.

After declaring on their overnight score of 389 for five, England limited Lahore to 133 in 38 overs, with Jonathon Powell, of Essex, taking four for 22 and Zac Morris, of Yorkshire, three for 36.

With 43 overs remaining in the day and on a wicket that seemed to favour the batsmen, England decided not to enforce the follow-on. However, only Ian Flanagan, from Essex, with 49, and Gareth Batty, of Yorkshire, who made 57, took advantage of their second knock as England declared on a disappointing 181 for nine at the close, leaving Lahore an unlikely victory target of 440.

Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, suffered disappointment in his hundredth one-day international as his side stumbled to a 74-run defeat against India in Bombay on Saturday.

A swashbuckling 114 by Sachin Tendulkar, the India captain, fresh from leading his team to a 2-1 Test series victory, and a quickfire 54 from Ajay Jadeja helped India to pile up 267 for six after they had won the toss in the one-off fixture. South Africa were then bowled out for 193 after the early removal of their four top-order batsmen for just 122 runs.

Tendulkar completed his century, which contained 12 fours, a few overs after Cronje pulled his team off the ground after the crowd began pelting the South Africa fielders with water bottles.

The crowd anger was sparked by the controversial dismissal of Mohammed Azharuddin, the former India captain — he was given out caught down the leg side by Kirsten. Azharuddin, however, appealed to the spectators for calm and game resumed after a ten-minute break.

Scoreboards, page 35

ENGLAND A AVERAGES

Batting	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Cts
M A Butcher	3	5	0	264	73	52.80	1	4	2
C White	3	5	1	204	99	51.00	0	2	3
J E R Gatten	1	2	1	38	26	38.00	0	0	0
M A Ebdon	0	1	0	137	76	137.00	0	0	0
D W Headley	3	4	1	71	28	23.66	0	0	1
W K Hogg	3	4	0	89	69	22.25	0	0	1
A J Hollioake	3	5	0	108	58	21.60	0	0	1
O A Smith	2	3	0	53	27	17.66	0	0	0
A F Giles	3	4	0	86	29	16.50	0	0	0
A McGrath	3	5	0	32	19	10.40	0	0	0
M P Vaughan	3	5	0	36	27	7.20	0	0	0
A J Harris	1	1	0	4	4	4.00	0	0	0
G Chappell	2	2	2	43	27	—	0	0	1

Bowling	O	M	R	W	Avg	Best	Sw	10w
A McGrath	4	0	6	3	6.00	1-4	—	—
C White	74.2	15	178	11	16.18	8-66	1	—
D W Headley	102.1	31	230	14	16.42	6-40	2	1
G Chappell	67.3	20	159	7	22.71	4-43	—	—
A J Hollioake	97	16	89	3	29.66	1-20	—	—
A F Giles	82.2	29	186	6	31.00	3-28	—	—
M A Ebdon	38	11	103	3	34.33	1-16	—	—
M A Butcher	6	3	8	0	—	—	—	—
J E R Gatten	14	5	54	0	—	—	—	—
A J Harris	15	0	54	0	—	—	—	—
M P Vaughan	13	1	56	0	—	—	—	—

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (Spm)	Last snow
AUSTRIA					
Kitzbühel	15	50 good powder	fair	cloud	0 14/12
Obergurgl	70	170 good varied	good	cloud	2 14/12
Sölden	20	70 good powder	fair	cloud	0 14/12
St Anton	70	220 good powder	good	cloud	1 14/12
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	100	280 good powder	good	sun	4 14/12
Chamonix	25	275 good powder	fair	fog	0 13/12
La Plagne	100	175 good powder	good	sun	3 14/12
Val d'Isère	120	280 good powder	good	sun	1 14/12
Val Thorens	180	250 good powder	good	fine	4 14/12
ITALY					
Cervinia	120	250 good varied	good	fine	0 13/12
SWITZERLAND					
Nöran	60	120 good powder	good	sun	1 14/12
St Moritz	80	240 good powder	good	fine	4 13/12
Wengen	40	100 good powder	good	fine	1 14/12

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.



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Strobl lights the way for Austrians

JOHN HOPKINS



On the men's downhill at Val d'Isère

IN SKIING, the French are going downhill fast and so are the Swiss but it is the Austrians who are going downhill fastest. In conditions of starting clarity in Val d'Isère yesterday morning, the men who bear the name The Eagle Knights on the back of their red après-ski jackets swept the board in the first downhill race of the season in Europe. Not just first and second, but first, second, third and fourth.

No sporting event of significance takes place in France without an oom-pah-pah band, clanging cowbells, crying children and barking dogs. Yet even the support of all these, plus banners bearing a likeness of his face were not sufficient to inspire Luc Alphand, the Frenchman who was world champion in 1995 and 1996, to stem the Austrian tide. The 31-year-old from Serre Chevalier finished sixth, half a second behind the winner, in a sport where half a second is half a lifetime.

On the OK piste, a savage, steep course on the notorious Belvedere mountain, where the 1992 Olympic downhill was staged, Fritz Strobl, 24, won the men's downhill of the *Slème Critérium International de la lère Neige* by 0.02sec from Werner Franz. He came, as they say, from nowhere, having started 43rd in a 72-strong field. Patrick Ortlieb, world champion, was third, ahead of Josef Strobl (no relation).

To cognoscenti, there was little surprise in the success of the Austrians, who have such strength in depth and traditionally start the season well. What was unexpected, perhaps, was that the winning Strobl was Fritz, whose best



Fritz Strobl races to an unexpected victory in the opening event of the European downhill season yesterday. Photograph: Philippe Wojazer

result was sixteenth in a super-giant slalom last season, rather than Josef, the 22-year-old who won this race two years ago. It was a day made in heaven: snow crackling under foot and cold clear air that made one's breath billow out like a spinnaker. Locals squinted up at the jagged mountains bathed in strong sunshine and said that, even for them, the weather was something special. On a day such as this, it was easy to understand why the resort where Jean-Claude Killy carved his first turns is one of the most popular in Europe.

To make it better, as much snow has already fallen in Val d'Isère as in the whole of last season — too much on occasions. A women's World Cup giant slalom race was called off on Friday and then, on Saturday, the men's downhill was abandoned after 17 racers had completed the course when a *brouillard*, hardly discernible to the naked eye, settled easily over the middle of the course.

Shrouded in that mist was the rivalry between Ortlieb and Alphand, which is certain to be a feature of the rest of this season's racing. All sport these days, seemingly, needs the added edge of personal rivalry as if the cut and thrust of the sport itself is not enough. Alphand and Ortlieb are, to use a seasonal metaphor, not on each others' Christmas card lists.

"We are not great friends, to say the least," Alphand said. "I said hello the first time we met in December and that's it. I don't like the way he behaves. Showing off for him is a way to gear himself up. When he won the world championship last winter, he was happy and he showed it, but I thought he

overdid it a bit. So when I start a race, the desire to beat him is a motivation for me." On this evidence, Ortlieb and his men are going to be the skiers to beat this season. "It was not my goal to beat the others in my team," Franz, who finished second, said. "But I have been inspired by

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Dominant Clarke takes yellow jersey

BARRIE CLARKE, the defending champion, dominated the third round of the National Trophy cycle-cross competition yesterday (Peter Bryan writes). After finishing ninth and second in the previous two rounds, he won the 6½-mile race at Leicester by 43sec and assumed the yellow jersey with one round to go, having started the day in fifth. Clarke relieved Stuart Blunt of the overall lead when the latter finished sixth, more than two minutes in arrears. Blunt is now second in the series, which ends next month, a fortnight after the British title race in Birmingham. Manchester won the Euroleague competition at their home velodrome on Saturday by three points from London.

Knowles bounces back

BADMINTON: Peter Knowles, who lost his Scottish Open title last month, gained compensation by winning the third Friends Provident Insurance Company British grand slam tournament of the season, at Kirkham yesterday (Richard Eaton writes). Knowles, the England No 2, overcame Colin Haughton, his international colleague, with an unexpectedly easy straight-sets victory in the final, Haughton garnering only seven points in front of a disappointed home Lancashire crowd. Kelly Morgan, of Wales, beat Emma Chaffin, of England, 11-1, 11-4 in the women's final.

Holdings go out

FOOTBALL: Wembley, the women's League Cup-holders, were knocked out of the competition in the third round by Everton yesterday (Sarah Forde writes). Maureen Marley, the England defender, scored twice for Everton in their 3-2 win. Jackie Bertie adding the third. Kim Jerrard-Silver and Tracey Koch replied for Wembley. Doncaster Belles, the runners-up last season, beat Wimbledon 8-1 with three goals from Vicky Exley, two for Sarah Begg and one each from Sarah Wooliscroft and Jackie Sherrard.

Britons in perfect form

ICE SKATING: Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean scored ten perfect tens as they won the world professional figure skating championship dance title for a fifth time on Saturday. Torvill and Dean, the former Olympic champions, dominated the competition in Landover, Maryland, earning four faultless marks for a laid-back jazz routine to Dave Brubeck's *Take 5*. They then earned six more tens for their playful *Hot Chick* number. Kristi Yamaguchi, of the United States, retained the women's title.

No pleasure for Britons

SHOWJUMPING: British riders failed to make an impression as Lars Nieberg logged his second win of the Volvo World Cup qualifier series in Geneva yesterday. Nieberg, from Germany, 33, rode For Pleasure to first place after a 13-horse jump-off that featured none of the British competitors. Nieberg clocked 43.64sec with the fastest of four clear rounds.

Brierley down and out

RACKETS: Al Brierley, the favourite from Winchester, lost to Charlie van der Gucht, of Radley, in the first significant upset of the opening round of the Renny Cup, the public schools championship senior singles, at the Queen's Club. Other seeds fared better; Christopher Bond, of Eton, kept his nerve to record a close, straight-sets victory over Alastair Gourlay, of Charterhouse.

SWIMMING

Double reverse for Rolph

FROM CRAIG LORD, IN ROSTOCK, GERMANY

THE cheers had barely faded after Susan Rolph's victory in the 200 metres medley than a sporting bureaucracy that apparently knows no bounds brought the European short-course championships to an acrimonious end last night. British celebrations of Mark Foster's victory in the 50 metres freestyle (22.25sec) and Rolph's equalling of a 15-year-old European record were cut short after the European Swimming League decided not to award Rolph the DMS,000 prize (about £2,000) available for record-breakers, nor register her name as the European record holder.

The farce began after Rolph, 18, ploughed ahead of Germany's Sabine Herbst to stop the clock at 2min 10.60sec, her best time by two seconds, and which equaled the European "best time" set in January 1982 by Petra Schneider of East Germany and also equaled the "standard time" set by the League in 1990, when short course times became officially recognised as records.



Rolph: medley double

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manse, instead sticking by the letter of a rule that says best times must be "bettered" before the prize can be given or the record recognised. In an effort to hide their blushes, the League awarded Rolph, who won the 100m medley on Saturday, a leather jacket for the best women's performance of the championships even though that accolade should clearly have gone to Sandra Völker, who missed the world 100 metres freestyle record by 0.03 sec. Deryk Snelling, at his first international as Britain's director of performance, said the

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SNOOKER

Robidoux fails to cash in on total clearance

FROM PHIL YATES IN OSNABRÜCK

ALAIN ROBIDOUX trailed Ronnie O'Sullivan 5-3 after the first session of the best-of-17-frame German Open final yesterday, despite installing himself as an overwhelming favourite to collect a £5,000 bonus with a 145 total clearance in the seventh frame.

That run superseded the 142 with which O'Sullivan completed his 6-1 semi-final victory over Nigel Bond as the highest break of the tournament's televised phase. It also eclipsed the 144 break from Stephen Hendry in the 1993 Asian Open, as the best witnessed outside Great Britain when ranking points have been at stake.

Yet Robidoux left the arena with mixed emotions after failing to capitalise on the least effective performance from O'Sullivan during a week which has seen him re-emerge as the most serious threat to Hendry's continued dominance of the game.

O'Sullivan, whose attitude and approach have shown an appreciable improvement this season, won a scrappy opener, but temporarily lost his way

and should have found himself 3-1 adrift. Robidoux, attempting to become the first Canadian to prevail in an important tournament since Bob Chaperon won the British Open in 1990, potted the pink to a middle pocket for 2-1, and was in control in the fourth frame until snookering himself on the yellow.

Twice Robidoux found it impossible to escape and O'Sullivan eventually cleared the colours to pink for 2-2. Deflated, Robidoux offered only token resistance in the next two frames as O'Sullivan moved 4-2 ahead with runs of 38, 45 and 67.

Robidoux's response could hardly have been more emphatic, but, as is so often the case, the amount of mental energy burnt up during a total clearance caused lapses in his concentration in the closing frame of the afternoon.

O'Sullivan, with breaks of 47 and 59, went on to win it comfortably, and was left requiring only four of the remaining nine frames to capture his fourth ranking event title.

ATHLETICS

Brown ends the long wait

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN CHARLEROI, BELGIUM

JON BROWN became the first British man for 21 years to collect a senior international cross country title when he won the European championship by a record margin of 35 seconds here yesterday. All this on only four hard training sessions since the Olympic Games and in a championship which he objected to when it was inaugurated in 1994.

Although the Great Britain men's team failed to secure the medals expected of them, the surprise third place achieved by the women's squad ensured the best day for British cross country since the four home nations were forced to compete as one from 1988. It shades the 1992 world championships, when Paula Radcliffe won the junior title and the senior men claimed the team bronze medals.

On a muddy course, Brown, 25, looked at home, although keeping up with where home actually is for him requires regular checking. Born in Bridgend, raised in Sheffield, university-educated at Iowa, he moved to Duisburg 18 months ago, but has lived in a suburb of Vancouver

since September. After finishing a disappointing tenth in the Olympic 10,000 metres, having developed a cold the day before the final, Brown began only last month to step up his training. "Since Atlanta I have done only four hard workouts," Brown said. "I did not prepare for this race specifically. My training began in October, but I have not trained hard yet. My training is geared for the world cross country. This is important, but, for me, the

Results ————— 35

world cross country is more important."

Brown, though he defeated Paul Tergat, the world champion, from Kenya, in Spain last week, dismissed any notion that he may be Tergat's successor in Turin next March.

"If Tergat is in his best shape, I will not beat him," Brown said. Brown's victory here prevented Paulo Guerra, from Portugal, from collecting a third successive title.

"When this event first

started I thought this is the last thing I want," Brown said. It has grown on him, though, as it has become evident that Europe's best distance runners take it seriously.

"I thought we were going to get B team guys running," Brown said. "I thought why would they want to do this when there are so many good [commercial] races every weekend in Europe."

Brown demonstrated an impressively smooth rhythm on a true cross country course that combined mud and hills. He covered the ten kilometres in 32min 37sec. "It was a real hard man's course," David Clarke, the men's team manager, said.

After having flu last week, Keith Cullen was unable to finish, and with his exit went British team medal prospects. Portugal won, with Britain fifth. France won the women's race, with Iulia Negura, from Romania, taking the individual title. Britain, led by Hayley Haining, in ninth place, finished third.

"I am shocked. I really did not think we would get medals," Andrea Whitcombe, who finished fifteenth, said.

BASKETBALL

Boone plunges Giants into free fall

BY NICHOLAS HARTING

SOMETHING stirred among the strugglers on Saturday when two of the Budweiser League's lowly clubs distinguished themselves by upsetting Manchester Giants and Leicester Riders, who still entertain title aspirations, albeit fainter ones.

The 85-82 defeat of the Giants by Thames Valley T-Giants was marginally more significant than the 91-83 loss suffered by Leicester by Worcester Warriors, since the Riders, who were missing not only Bob McDermott, their coach, but also one of their key players, Tony Holley and James Williams had produced the hard work for Tigers, in losing Frankie Edwards and Matt Perry to 12 points

between them, when up stepped Waymon Boone to win the match for Thames Valley from the free-throw line. Three times in the last 65 seconds he was fouled and three times he sank the two throws.

"It was almost as if I needed the extra pressure," Boone said. "It was total concentration, boy."

The 22 points of Williams and Holley's 26 had earlier given the Tigers the initiative. Improving on a pre-interval surge of 14-3, they led 60-46 only for Mark Robinson (23 points) to set a rousing example for Michael Brown. Dispatching five three-pointers, Brown collected 21 points to put the Giants in front at 80-75. "It was very frustrating

to lose after a comeback like that," Joe Whetton, their coach, said.

The Tigers should be even stronger for the inclusion of Jeff Clifton, a 6ft 7in forward, a product of Arkansas State University. The red-tape involved in his work permit makes the sudden release of Kevin Vulin last month all the more mystifying. "It was nothing to do with me," Mick Bett, the coach, said.

Worthing, too, have a vacancy, but their hopes of filling it with Spencer Dunkley have been dashed by his move to Besancon, in France. They need not worry while Anthony Thomas, the scorer of 32 points, and James Hamilton, with 20, display the form that devastated Leicester.

Grey days illuminated by colourful outbursts

Warm thoughts of open fires and toasted teacakes are helping to keep Lucy Duncan going through the worst of the BT Global Challenge

Shortly before I left Rio de Janeiro, on the second leg of the BT Global Challenge, I climbed Sugar Loaf mountain, led by Stuart Pask, the other watch leader on *Concert*. It was actually more of a scramble than a climb, but there was a small bit of free climbing that was exposed and nerve-racking. The best part of that climb was getting to the end of it. I am beginning to think that the Southern Ocean is a bit like that...

Although some of it is beautiful, and the albatrosses beyond comparison, most of it is incredibly bleak and desolate and a large part of it is very grey. Nearly two weeks after rounding Cape Horn it feels as if we have been in the Southern Ocean for months. Life aboard *Concert* at the moment is divided simply into "on watches", which are cold

and wet, and "off watches" when my warm, slightly damp, sleeping bag beckons and provides a brief haven from the icy winds and spray on deck.

So far we have had two gales. We have also had quite a few relatively calm days and were beginning to think that the horrors of the Southern Ocean weren't all they were cracked up to be. Then came the second gale, accompanied by blizzards and hail storms.

However, we have still not experienced the 60ft waves I have read so much about and I have the slightly uncomfortable feeling that there is a lot more in store for us. The sailing is physically very hard work, particularly when a

watch involves a lot of sail changes. These watches end with us sinking into our bunks totally exhausted.

Unfortunately, these periods usually coincide with rougher seas, so sleep is somewhat sporadic. The only things stopping us regularly ending up on the floor is the strap holding us into our bunks.

Although tiring, the busy watches are, in a lot of ways, the best ones. Regular sail changes certainly keep the cold at bay. Even Chris Tibbs, the skipper, has admitted it's cold and has been seen wearing a hat. The rest of us have been wearing everything we can lay our hands on for weeks.

I haven't, as yet, found myself frightened, but I do find that my most common emotion is fury, directed at the latest icy wave that deposits itself in my face and makes every task ten times as difficult as it should be.

I'm not alone in venting my anger. A fellow crew member (actually one of the mildest mannered people you could imagine) has become renowned for the torrents of abuse he hurls at the genco (the heaviest sail) as he is trying to move it about the deck. The genco has become a universal hate object. It is hard enough to move round on dry land with three people, let alone on a heaving deck, with waves constantly coming over

the bow and trying to fill it with water.

Here in the middle of the Southern Ocean it is hard to imagine everyone at home going about their normal lives. Nevertheless, I can conjure up a very clear picture in my mind — cosy sitting rooms and toasted teacakes.

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Advance of Barnsley goes largely unnoticed

Agostino rises above the dross

Scowcroft's double puts Bolton firmly in their place

Pressure on Houston to do Wright thing for Peacock

Oxford display wealth that money cannot buy



Webb's sights set on progress

Shilton saves his best for lead-up to 1,000th game

FULHAM (3-5-2): A Lange — M Blake (sub: D Guffo, 81 min), N Cusack, T Angus — P Watson, R Carpenter, G Cockrell (sub: R Scott, 87), S Morgan, R Hurrell — M Conroy, D Freeman.

LEYTON ORIENT (5-3-2): P Shilton — J Channing, D Chapman, R Joseph, M Warren, D Naylor — M Ling, A Amott (sub: A Martin, 78), S Howes — C West (sub: A Inglesharpe, 61), S McGleish.

Referee: R Knight

FOOTBALL: GULLIT FAILS TO FIND ANSWERS AS CHELSEA PAY DEARLY FOR LACK OF FIGHTING SPIRIT

Sunderland signal bright future

Sunderland 3
Chelsea 0

By Andrew Longmore

THEY probably did not tell Gianfranco Zola of days like this when he forsook Italy for the more earthly delights of the FA Carling Premiership. If they had, he might have added a footnote to his contract: "I reserve the right to have a hamstring injury on cold evenings in the North East." Not that Zola, the little Italian, proved an expensive luxury at Roker Park yesterday. Far from it. It was just that those around him had left much of their heart back on the King's Road.

Nothing, though, should detract from Sunderland's victory, their most emphatic at home since April and a timely confirmation of their resurgence after a clear-cut defeat of Everton the week before. On

who returned to Premiership duty less than 24 hours after playing for Wales against Turkey in a World Cup qualifier. In contrast, Chelsea were left to reflect on the absence of Vialli, through injury, Leboeuf, through suspension, and Di Matteo — until he went on as a second-half substitute — through loss of form. Gullit, the manager, pressed himself into service as a striker, choosing to rest Hughes, another to play for Wales on Saturday, and fulfil a role that he has not regularly filled since his early days, and Sinclair returned to right back for his first game in nearly ten months.

For once, Gullit looked out of his depth. His most frequent pose was with arms akimbo, head bowed in disgust at what was going on around him. It did not occur to him until too late that he should try to influence the game by retreating into midfield. Perhaps he was wise. So strong was the tackling of Ball and Bracewell in the Sunderland midfield, even the combative Wise looked lost.

Admittedly, Sunderland's cause was helped by the large slice of luck that gave them their opening goal on the half-hour — yet, even before then, Gray had given Sinclair notice of the torrid afternoon ahead of him and Russell warned Duberry and Clarke of his pace, nipping behind them to force Grodas into a diving save. Then, just as Chelsea were beginning to find some semblance of order, Russell struck. Or was it Duberry's back? Either way, Russell broke inside from the right, lined up a shot that sliced off his left foot and took a wicked deflection off Duberry, the Chelsea central defender, to loop tumbling over Grodas and into the net. Russell looked sheepish enough about claiming the goal; Reid did not care.

"We got a break with that one and we'd not had many of those this season," he said. "After that we were able to relax and play our football." And play they did. No sooner had the whistle blown at the start of the second half than Sunderland extended their lead. This one was a beauty, worthy of Serie A in its movement and execution.

Not for the first time, Sinclair was drawn hopelessly out of position on the right



Ball leads the celebrations after scoring Sunderland's spectacular second goal at Roker Park yesterday

when Gray was released by Bracewell. Gray's first touch was clumsy, his second a delight as he floated a wicked, curling centre away from Grodas for Ball to hurt himself through the air and score with a spectacular header. It was no more than Ball, the inspirational Sunderland captain, deserved, a tribute to the work that Reid has been putting in on the training

ground in persuading his midfield to search for goals. For a time, as Hughes went on and Chelsea reorganised, Sunderland seemed set to turn an emphatic victory into an embarrassment. In the 67th minute Russell once again sneaked in behind Clarke to turn Kelly's delicately angled pass under Grodas and into the net. The Roker roar could be heard as far down the coast

as Middlesbrough. Shortly after, the same combination, working the same move, forced Grodas into an excellent save.

Gullit was not generous in defeat, whining about the injustice of the first goal rather than the inadequacies of his team. "You cannot train for goals like that," he said, "but what worries me about this side is that they give away

stupid goals." Sunderland deserved more credit than that and it will not have escaped their notice that they are only five points behind Chelsea — and closing.

SUNDERLAND (4-5-1): L. Power — G. Hall, P. O'D., A. Melville, D. Kitchin — D. Kelly, K. Ball, P. Bracewell, A. Reid (sub: M. Bridges, 68), M. Gray (sub: S. Agnew, 68) — C. Russell.

CHELSEA (4-3-3): F. Grodas — F. Sinclair, S. Clarke, M. Duberry, S. Minto — C. Bailey (sub: R. D. Mitchell, 45), D. Wise, E. Newton — G. Zola, R. Gullit, A. Myers (sub: M. Hughes, 60). Referee: M. Bodenham.

Loyal supporters draw little comfort in the cold

A couple of voices called out "Judas!", and then a couple more — not really malevolently, but feeling that it was somehow expected of them. Judas! If John Stables can reproduce on the pitch the speed that he showed from the Elland Road exit to the Tottenham Hotspur team coach, then even Robbie Fowler will be in trouble.

What has Stables done to be thus placed in the depths of the Inferno in the Leeds United cosmic view? Simple. He was all set to join them last week, but Tottenham snaffled him up from beneath their noses. At the last minute something better turned up.

Since his first match was between these clubs, a difficult afternoon was in prospect. However, he saved the day by suffering from that most terrible of afflictions, the diplomatic gerr strain.

Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, denied any hint of diplomacy, but, after seeing what Leeds can do when they get over-excited — a horrid kicking match against Chelsea — perhaps he was wise to keep the temperature down.

It was freezing, and the result was 0-0. Now there can be wonderful, enthralling, altogether satisfying 0-0 draws, and this was not one of them.

It was an afternoon of midfield incoherence and a result that both clubs would have settled for before kick-off.

Was it only the ballet critics up in the press box who were displeased? For those loyal to either cause there were satisfying points about the afternoon. Leeds, under George Graham's brutal pragmatism, have now recorded three successive clean sheets.

This is not going to make red-hot television, but it warms the hearts of committed footballing people — committed to Leeds, that is. Meanwhile, Tottenham, in their continuing crisis of identity, their seeking under Francis of the low road of consistent competence, had the better of the day.

Leeds also had the pleasure of abusing Stables for his disloyalty to a club of which he was never a member. Do the customers of the NatWest bank call a Barclays branch manager "Judas" if he thinks about joining the NatWest but ends up at Lloyds?

One-club footballers are rare beasts these days. They move from firm to firm because a mobile workforce is what the firms themselves want. In the main, the only people who stay loyal to clubs are supporters. As more and more money comes into the

Simon Barnes wonders who enjoyed the freezing stalemate at Elland Road

game, one wonders at the gulf between the supporters' perception of their club and that of the players. Has it ever been so wide?

The demography of the game is changing, and with it the nature of the supporters.

Increasingly, the people that buy the ever more expensive tickets are not die-hard home-and-away loyalists, but floating voters in search of "entertainment", and, certainly, that describes most people who watch their football on

television. After all, people watch even if their own club should they support one, is not playing.

Middlesbrough have shown us the value of the concept of "entertainment". They have certainly had more publicity, more staff writers about them, than any club outside championship contenders — and perhaps that is enough to satisfy their sponsors.

Graham was asked afterwards if he did not feel the pressure to sign a "name". A big-money signing at least shows the world that you are doing your best. Graham, alarmingly amiable these days, was in at once with a denial. A denial of the whole idea, in fact.

"The fans are not looking for a name," he said. "They are looking for improvement in the league. They want a successful Leeds United." In other words, who gives a monkey for the neutrals, the floating voters and the ballet critics?

The concept of loyalty has changed among footballers. Ian Rush is still seen as the archetypal one-club man, yet he left Liverpool to collect some foreign exchange in Italy, and he is now at Leeds, still, game as ever, struggling not to be an embarrassment to his own past.

Perhaps the one-club sup-

porter is also a thing of the past, or less of a factor in the scheme of things, anyway. Will an Arsenal supporter be able to watch Newcastle United versus Manchester United on pay-per-view without his conscience shouting "Judas"? We shall doubtless see soon enough.

Certainly, nobody that did not love Leeds or Tottenham very deeply indeed would have been able to stick the events of last Saturday, still less get any pleasure from them. Fox and Howells hit the woodwork for Tottenham, and Fox might have had a penalty. Rush, as usual, missed a chance that he would have buried in a former life. Not a one-club man, but only any good for one club.

Football is fashionable, and so are replica football shirts. The game has caught the nation's fancy. However, those who enjoy the fruits of caprice must prepare themselves for caprice's lash. Big names and fashion trends come and go, but the virtues of the indestructibly ghastly 0-0 draw endureth forever.

LEEDS UNITED (5-3-2): N. Martin — G. Kelly, C. Palmer, P. Bardsley, L. Rastbury, S. Hails — L. Bowyer, R. Whelan (sub: H. Kewell, 78min), M. Ford (sub: M. Jackson, 63) — B. Osborn, I. Rush.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I. Walker — S. Campbell, S. Carr, C. Calderwood, C. Whelan — P. Fox, A. Walker, D. Howells, A. Sinton — E. Sheenaghan, S. Hanson. Referee: P. Durkin.

Mere mortals pay price as Fowler joins the deities

Liverpool 5
Middlesbrough 1

By Mark Hodgkinson

PLAYERS, since they are mere servants to mortality, pass through, but the aura of Liverpool remains. Bill Shankly and his acolytes understood the psychology of fear and the legacy, passed on like a family heirloom, continues.

Middlesbrough were beaten by themselves as much as their opponents in crimson on Saturday. Like scores before them, they were overwhelmed, struck mute in the court of the crimson kings. Their deference was undignified and discomforting, like watching a flyright being set upon by Mike Tyson.

If the state of mind was amiss, it was matched by the calamity of Bryan Robson's tactics. He played the same formation as Liverpool, effectively pitting player against player, with disastrous results. Journeymen like Mustoe, Stamp, Liddle and Cox were loyal to their brief, but for the most part looked like men running upwards on the down escalator.

Liverpool had the verve and guile to secure optimum returns from Middlesbrough's deficiency, though, despite the scoreline, the performance was still short of consummate. They sometimes drained too much pace from the game, leaving it almost funereal, and teams of a less pusillanimous nature would have fed hungrily on some scrappy passing.

Within seconds of the kick-off Emerson showed why he should have been finding his fitness anywhere else but on the unrelenting stage of Anfield. He appeared to pull a muscle on his first amble upfield and was left with a diminishing view of Collymore's studs as he tore into the Middlesbrough half. His shot was blocked by Walsh, but followed up expertly by Fowler. Twenty-nine seconds gone, just another 5.371 for Middlesbrough to endure.

They survived for nearly 30 minutes before the same combination struck again. This time Collymore hit the post and Fowler gleefully tapped the ball home. It was his 100th goal in 165 games for Liverpool and he celebrated by lifting up his shirt to reveal the message: "God's job's a good 'un." It transpired afterwards that Fowler's nickname among his team-mates is God, and he is palpably not one for understatement.

Liddle and Whyte were booked for fouls as they tried to disturb the Liverpool

rhythm to no avail. Collymore, playing with thrilling directness, once more supplied a goal for a colleague. His free kick was parried by Walsh and Bjornebye stooped to head it beyond flailing defenders.

If Emerson was half-fit, Ravanelli, Middlesbrough's other expensive import, was half-hearted. He skirted tackles, rarely chased for the ball and his control and passing was dreadful. If he was poor with his feet, he was much better with his arms. In his black driving gloves, he continually gestured to team-mates, many of whom were working twice as hard, for — at best — half the pay.

Middlesbrough were denied a fingerhold on the match when Keith Burge, the referee, indicated that McAteer's collision in the penalty area with Hignett had been a shoulder charge rather than a push.

The game effectively over, Liverpool briefly hit upon one of their infamous bouts of day-dreaming, but a goal by Fjortoft, headed in from a free



Fowler: scoring spree

kick, prompted them back to life. McManaman collected when Mustoe allowed the ball to run loose. He advanced towards goal, placed it through to Fowler and he pushed it beyond Walsh to record a hat-trick.

Fowler's fourth and Liverpool's final goal was a wonderful piece of finishing. He steadied himself expertly and, while Liddle and Whelan danced ungainly as if suddenly caught on ice, Fowler played the ball from one foot to the other and finally into the net.

Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, was candid in his appraisal of the match. "Liverpool were red hot today," he said. "They had a great start and the lads drained away afterwards. I'm glad we are not going to come up against them every week."

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): A. Dalglish — M. Wright, N. Ruddock, P. Babb — J. McAteer, J. Barnes, M. Thomas, S. McManaman, S. Bjornebye — R. Fowler, S. Collymore.

MIDDLESBROUGH (3-5-2): G. Walsh — N. Cox, D. Whyte, P. Whelan — P. Stamp, A. Campbell, S. Hails, R. Mustoe, Emerson, C. Hignett, C. Liddle — J. Fjortoft, F. Ravanelli. Referee: A. Burge.

Unsettled Clark faces talks with chairman

FRANK CLARK, the Nottingham Forest manager, will have talks with Irving Korn, the chairman, this week before deciding his future with the struggling FA Carling Premiership club (Richard Hobson writes). He is concerned at the way takeover moves are becoming increasingly protracted, casting uncertainty around the City Ground.

Despite early hopes that the matter would be resolved and a buyer in place by the end of November, it now appears that the new owners will not be in position until January 6 at the earliest. Forest will have to repay a bank loan of £2 million by the end of the year and Clark, who has been

expecting an injection of around £13 million with which to buy new players, will be under pressure to sell instead.

Forest are second from bottom of the Premiership without a win since the opening day of the season. They meet second-placed Liverpool at Anfield tomorrow night and follow that with home games against Arsenal, the leaders, and Manchester United.

Clark has revealed an interest in bringing Jürgen Klinsmann, the unsettled Bayern Munich striker, to the City Ground at the end of the season, but added: "Unless we are at least mid-table by then, we will not have a chance of enticing him."

Work ethic offers Wimbledon belated reward

Wimbledon 1
Blackburn Rovers 0

By Brian Glanville

FROM far and wide they came, by all accounts, to watch Wimbledon on Saturday and to discover their secret. Even Egil Olsen, the team manager of Norway, who only recently announced that he thought English football so drab that he discouraged his players from coming here.

After watching this apology for an FA Carling Premiership match, he could only have been confirmed in his opinions. As for Joe Kinnear, Wimbledon's irrepressible manager, he said that there was no secret: "You can't beat hard work."

Wimbledon, in fact, deserve to be studied not as a team — for their 19-match unbeaten run, they remain a pretty fastidious one — but as a club. In this respect, they consistently perform small miracles. Miracles of finding and developing

the young, such as Ardley, Perry and Fear, miracles in the transfer market. Such as picking up, for peanuts, a striker such as the formidable Marcus Gayle, whose career at Brentford once seemed at an end after a fracas on the training ground. Brentford, though, kept him; Wimbledon got him. Gayle has seemingly seen the light and now he is a host in himself.

Just belt the ball high and hard up the left, as Kimble enthusiastically does, in the old Wimbledon tradition, and Gayle, with his pace and power and no small skill, will as likely as not make something out of it.

Such as he did midway through the first half, when excellent work and a searching cross had the Blackburn Rovers defence in disarray. When at last the ball was hacked out of the goalmouth, Ardley met it and his shot was beaten down by Given.

In the closing minutes, when Blackburn seemed worn down by Wimbledon's sheer pressure, Gayle was devastating. He beat the indom-

table Hendry on the right-hand goalline when there seemed no possible way past him, with a feint that would have done credit to Stanley Matthews. Receiving from Leonhardsen, he made space for himself in a central position, hitting a low shot that Given did well to turn for a corner.

These, alas, were no more than

Wales worry 29
Steve McManaman 29

belated consolations. As Tony Parkes, Blackburn's regular, temporary manager, said, the game for much of its course looked all over a goalless draw. He was right to admit: "We didn't create enough chances for the possession we had," though, by the same token, Kinnear was right to praise Perry and Blackwell, his centre backs, for the way that they subdued the Blackburn strikers.

Blackburn's parts continue to be so

much greater than the whole. Too often they flatter to deceive. On one of the few occasions that they seemed likely to score, early in the second half, when Sullivan made a hash of a corner, Sherwood shot but the ball was blocked.

Vinnie Jones was not at Selhurst Park, he was playing for Wales, but perhaps it was as well that he was missing. An incensed Kinnear will confront him today over a flippant interview that he gave about the rest of the Wimbledon team.

Kinnear insisted that "people are forgetting who we are and expecting more of us. I think for some reason we were a yard off the pace in the first half. In the second half we decided to go brave, push Ardley up, give Leonhardsen a free role."

It was Holdsworth, though, the scoring substitute, who finally broke the dull deadlock, four minutes from the end. By that point Blackburn's defence, at last, was rocking. Wimbledon kept putting the ball back into the mixer, however desperately

Blackburn tried to get it away. Finally it came to Peter Fear, whose kick took a kindly deflection off a colleague, enabling Ardley to flick it on and Holdsworth to score easily.

"We never really expected them to score," Parkes said, resignedly, "but it was a typical Wimbledon goal. You can't clear your lines and someone nods it down to score."

So Wimbledon continue to mingle with the mighty and, if they are up there by default, whose fault is that?

What they have so boldly and resourcefully proved is that, even in these days of excess when millionaire players abound, David can still topple Goliath.

Deprived of European competition in 1988, after winning the FA Cup, they surely deserve a chance in 1997.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N. Sullivan — K. Cunningham, D. Blackwell, C. Perry, A. Kinnear — N. Ardley, R. Eadie, P. Fear, C. Leonhardsen — M. Gayle, E. Dickie (sub: D. Holdsworth, 78min).

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-3-3): S. Owen — J. Kenna, C. Hendry, H. Barg, G. La Sota — I. Robinson, W. Mackinlay, T. Sherwood — K. Galloway, C. Sutton, J. Wilson. Referee: A. Wilson.

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RUGBY UNION

Wales lay down foundations for better days

Wales 20
South Africa 37

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE old year ended for international rugby much as it began, with the British game contemplating how far it must travel before coming up on the shoulder of the southern hemisphere, but, in defeat in Cardiff yesterday, Wales offered a display of ambition and initiative that will serve them well when the new year comes.

There is always a danger in drawing too much sustenance from defeat, and the fact is that South Africa sealed their victory with five tries to set against one. Three of those scores fell to Joost van der Westhuizen, the livewire scrum half who rivals Justin Marshall, of New Zealand, as the best in the global game; yet Robert Howley lacked little in comparison and, given an ounce more good fortune, Wales would have pressed far closer.

It is a difficult game to play when one side advances in bursts of three, the other in leaps of five or seven points, but, for all that, Neil Jenkins kept Wales in the frame with his kicking. An interval lead of 23-12 gave South Africa scope in which to express themselves and, happily for a 45,000-strong crowd, they chose to do so rather than adopting a defensive strategy.

"The side that won the World Cup was a great defensive side," André Markgraaff, the South Africa coach, said. "We are a good defensive side, but we are also trying to score tries." Twenty-one in five internationals on their tour of Argentina, France and Wales is testimony to his success, to a team born in disharmony but that now contemplates 1997 with very real expectations.

The tally of tries might have

been more but for the last pass going astray during the first half yesterday and to a Welsh facility in cover defence that they could not match in attack. They had to wait until added time before Arwel Thomas, retrieving something from an afternoon of personal pain, dived into the corner to give Wales a consolation try in a rousing finale to their defeat by South Africa in Cardiff yesterday.

Nevertheless, there was a shape and strength of purpose to Wales that England, 29 hours earlier, lacked against Argentina. Allan Bateman made a notable return to the red jersey after six years away in rugby league, strong in the tackle and deceptively elusive in attack, and, despite the travails of Thomas, the mid-field came close to breaching the meanness of defences. If Jenkins had been more at

Full results from the weekend Page 35

home with the offensive potential of full back play, they might have done.

Sadly, Thomas contributed to South Africa's first two scores. Though Jenkins opened with a penalty goal in the second minute, a missed touch by Thomas gave South Africa the chance to counter and force an offside decision at the ruck. Honiball kicked the goal and, when Thomas had his dropped-goal attempt charged down, Kruger made 70 metres downfield and created the position from which van der Westhuizen scored the first of his tries.

Wales simply could not match the speed of support that South Africa generated, which contributed notably to their second try, when persistent handling saw them erupt down the short side of a ruck and Honiball had a multiplicity of choices before he sent Joubert to the line. Though

Jenkins never allowed his accuracy to drift, Wales needed more than penalty goals and van der Westhuizen showed them a clean pair of heels, bursting clear from 25 metres after Teichmann had broken the advantage line.

A good start to the second half might have spurred Wales, particularly since the South Africa pack had to be reorganised after injuries to Theron and Andrews, but within two minutes van der Westhuizen had ripped the ball away from Howley and crossed for his third try. Though Jenkins kicked a fifth penalty goal, South Africa's advantage grew as Honiball probed deftly and Olivier, with surgical precision, sensed a gap in the defence and took it.

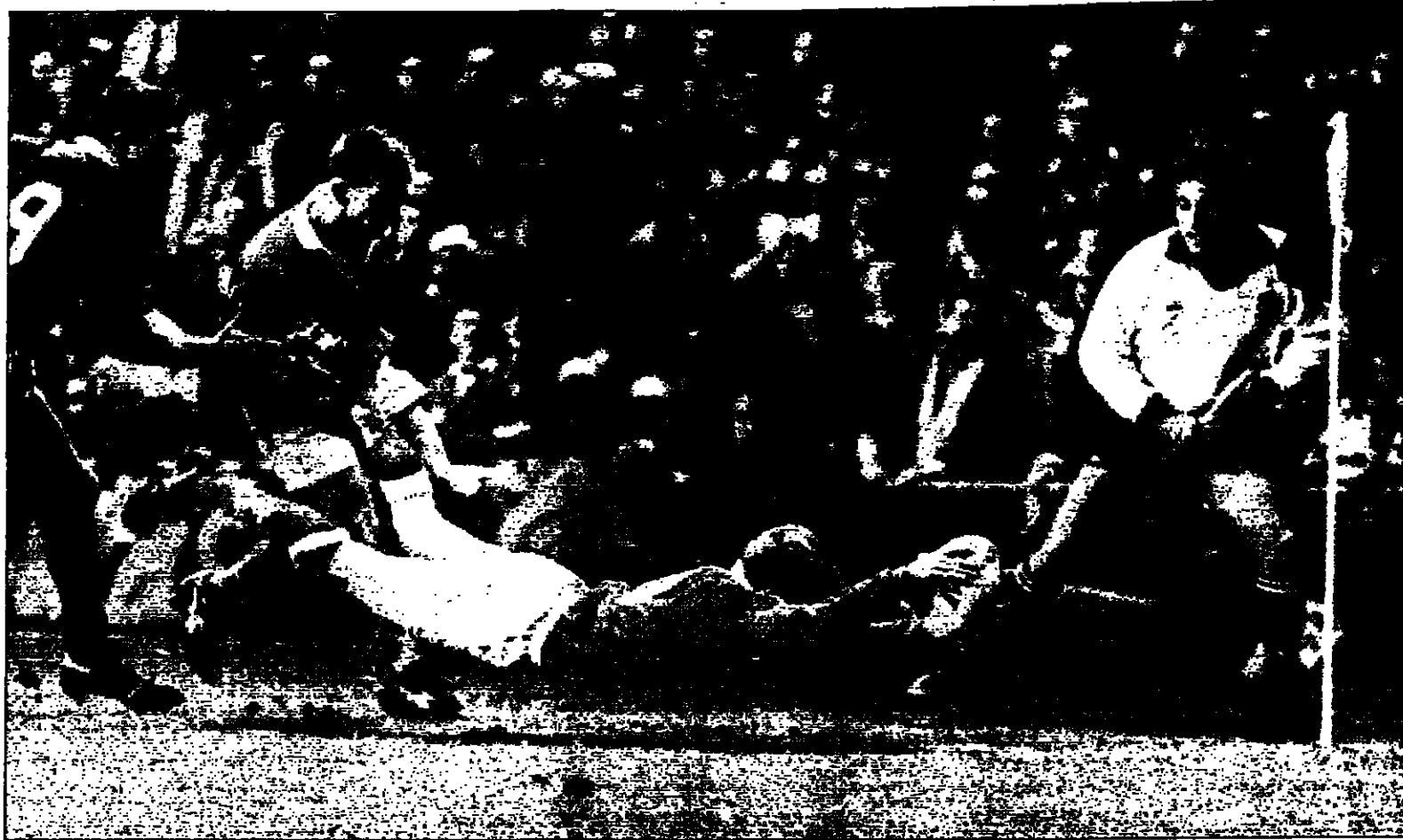
Still Wales came again: Howley broke clear and kicked ahead, Jenkins was first to the ball and his forwards arrived to force an attacking scrum. A knock-on by Joubert took them even closer and, rather than going for the eight-man push, Wales released the ball quickly for Arwel Thomas to carve the opening. It was a good end to a fine match, but so much, for Wales, remains still to do.

SCORES: Wales: Try: A Thomas, Penalty goal: Jenkins (5). South Africa: Try: van der Westhuizen (3), Joubert, Olivier, Conventers: Honiball (2), Joubert, Penalty goal: Honiball (2).

WALS: N R Jenkins (Pontypridd); I C Evans (Llanelli), A G Bateman (Richmond); I S Gibbs (Swansea), D James (Bridgend); A C Thomas (Swansea), R Howley (Cardiff), C D Lousder (Swansea), J M Humphreys (Cardiff), captain, D Young (Cardiff), D L M McDonald (Pontypridd), G O Llewellyn (Cardiff), M Rowley (Pontypridd), C Charles (Swansea), S M Williams (Neath), M Thomas (Neath) replaced by N Thomas (Barn, 60m).

SOUTH AFRICA: A J Joubert (Neath); J T Small (Neath), J C Mulder (Transvaal), H P le Roux (Transvaal), J Olivier (Northern Transvaal), H W Honiball (Neath), J H van der Westhuizen (Northern Transvaal), D Theron (Cape Town), J Dutton (Northern Transvaal), A C Garvey (Neath), R J Kruger (Northern Transvaal), J J Wales (Transvaal), M G Andrews (Neath), A G Verder (Free State), G H Teichmann (Neath), captain Theron replaced by A van der Linde (Western Province, 21), Andrews replaced by J J Snyman (Transvaal, 40); Olivier replaced by A H Snyman (Northern Transvaal, 78).

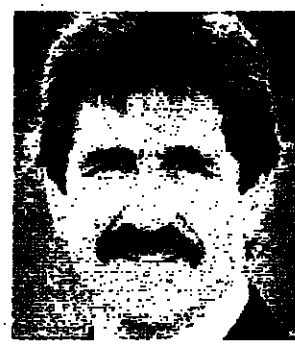
Referee: S Lander (England)



Thomas dives into the corner to give Wales a consolation try in a rousing finale to their defeat by South Africa in Cardiff yesterday

Selectors should stay on the attack

GERALD DAVIES



At Cardiff

In the past two weeks Wales have lost to Australia and South Africa. This will be no doubt a cause for some discontent, but not too much. Wales must place these failings in the context of the high quality of the opponents whom they faced and of what is ahead of them. Having lost to two southern hemisphere countries, where the most powerful rugby nations now unquestionably reside, is no reason to feel despondent and cause the Wales selectors to make any dramatic gestures by changing their personnel or the manner they intended to play the game. There was much to encourage them here.

Wales's next match is against the United States, in January, with the five nations' championship coming swiftly on its heels. By the very nature of the gulf that exists between the two hemispheres, their opponents in the new year will offer a different standard

of play. It may well be that Wales, as others must, may aspire to those standards south of the equator, but this must be allied to realism. Their aim now is to do well, and more, against their European neighbours. That is the place to gain a reputation for now. It may be below par in world standards, but that is all that Wales can hope for. Come January this will be seen as no small ambition.

This, at any rate, was a Wales performance upon which such hopes can be built. It was a spirited effort. If the expectation beforehand was of the likelihood of Wales being overwhelmed, this did not in any way materialise. The try difference of five to one may indicate as much, but Wales, territorially, had as much, if not more, of the game than South Africa.

There was optimism, too, in the way that Wales's tactics indicated an intention to at-

sulted, two minutes later, in Olivier scoring at the other end. There was a long way to go at this stage and all the points on offer should have been gratefully received.

Of the individual players, Charvis had a conspicuous game on his first full international. Bateman and Gibbs were a solid pair in the centre and around whom much can be created. Collectively, at forward, it was significant that, given a penalty midway through the second half, Wales chose to take a scrum. Clearly, this was a measure of their confidence.

The overall weakness, though, was that, as Wales threatened to turn South Africa on their heels and make progress forward, errors crept in and let them off the hook. Indeed, there were occasions when Wales made South Africa look vulnerable.

However, the difference between the teams lay in speed.

Wales may have caused problems for South Africa's defence, but they never looked like running clear of it. South Africa, with Joubert, Mulder and Olivier, given the slightest chance, could open up gaps that Wales could only close with desperate attempts. It was not so much the man with the ball who was important but those on his shoulder. He invariably enjoyed the support of two or three others. This was demonstrated in van der Westhuizen's second try: five pairs of hands in swift succession — van der Westhuizen, Andrews, Honiball, Teichmann and van der Westhuizen — quick and irresistible.

This was the style that Wales should attempt to emulate. The five countries of the championship have seen the standard set by the southern hemisphere and they must hope that some of it will rub off in the tournament.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

THE TIMES

Win a £17,200 Toyota Picnic FFV

The Times offers readers the chance to win every family's dream car — the new Toyota Picnic Family Fun Vehicle which will be going on sale in the UK for the first time in January. The six-seater vehicle has been designed with the aim of making travelling with children a happy and comfortable experience for everyone in the car.

While working on the new car's development, Toyota commissioned a report by a leading

psychologist, to investigate the psychology of family travel. The report identified that although it may not seem impossible to change children's behaviour on long car journeys, there are certain fundamentals that ensure more peaceful family travel.

The Toyota Picnic Family Fun Vehicle has a list of impressive features including six individual seats, all with 3-point seat belts, giving children their own space to minimise the risk of irritation. Safety features include dual air bags and side impact beams. There are a total of 17 different seat combinations and a power outlet in the rear — essential for the kids' personal stereo on that long car journey. For your chance to win this superb vehicle, collect four tokens from The Times and complete the entry form below.



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For your chance to win the Toyota Picnic collect four differently numbered tokens from the seven appearing in The Times between Saturday December 14 and Saturday December 21, 1996. Send them with

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1. The car to be won is the Toyota Picnic FFV (manual) and cannot be exchanged for a different model or cash alternative. 2. The car will be presented ready to drive away, except for insurance and road tax, which will be the responsibility of the winner. 3. Winners may be required to be photographed for publicity purposes. 4. Acceptance of all the rules is a condition of entry. 5. For the name of the winner, please send a SAE to the address above. 6. The car will be awarded at the winner's nearest Toyota dealership. 7. The competition is open to all Times readers over 17 years of age. 8. The winner will be the person who correctly completes the competition question and who, in the opinion of the independent judges, submits the best tie-break. 9. Normal Toyota Newspaper competition rules apply.

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THE TIMES
TOYOTA
picnic
TOKEN 2

Times writers give their Christmas selections of the best in sporting literature in 1996

Bradman's shadow returns to haunt Hammond in print

IT WAS Wally Hammond's misfortune that, at the very moment when many people were considering him to be the greatest batsman in the world, along came Don Bradman to upstage him. How strange, eerie almost, that, at the very moment when an extraordinary portrait of Hammond lays claim to be the best cricket book of the year, up pops a classic study of Sir Don to challenge it.

Charles Williams (aka C. C. P. Williams, who played cricket for Oxford University and Essex, and Lord Williams of Elvel, a Labour life peer) chose to write a story about Australia as well as a great Australian. He wanted to put Sir Don's cricketing achievements into the context of an Australia feeling her way towards nationhood, to show how his genius became a focus for Australian aspirations during a critical period in the country's history.

By any reasonable standards," he writes in *Bradman: An Australian Hero*, "it was a heavy burden to lay upon anybody let alone somebody whose upbringing had ill prepared him for what was, in some respects at least, the role of a demigod."

It is a measure of how well Sir Don carried that burden that he remains, at the age of 88, one of the great Australian heroes, a cricketer about whom it can be said without exaggeration that he was the greatest of them all.

The tragedy of Hammond is that nobody could ever quite say that about him, not even David Foot, the West Country journalist and writer whose fascination with the man he saw play during his schooldays gave him a lifelong compulsion to write *Wally Hammond: The Reasons Why*. It is an affectionate yet contro-

versal book about someone who, in Foot's words, "brought so much joy to the game yet appeared to find so little of it himself". Sir Len Hutton, no less, said that he would rather see an hour of Hammond than eight or ten of Bradman, yet the great player was to become preoccupied by a sense of failure — in his rivalry with Bradman, in his social aspirations, in his business

enterprises and in his personal relationships. The reasons given by Foot are devastating.

These books tower above most of the others on offer, but if you really want to know about the squabbles that cloud so many issues today, there are plenty of people ready to spill the beans.

Allan Lamb, the man whom the Test and County Cricket Board could not gag, was prepared to give up his playing career to have his say about events from hotel bedrooms in New Zealand to the High Court



Sir Don: greatest of all

in his biography, while Dermot Reeve could hardly wait to get his pads off before letting loose both barrels on Brian Lara in *Winning Ways*.

Neither Lamb nor Reeve could resist a pop at the former chairman of the England selectors, but Raymond ("I have never dodged an answer in my life and I am not going to start now") Illingworth is ready for them in *One-Man Committee*. That is not altogether surprising. The versatile Jack Bannister, his collaborator, also wrote the Lamb book.

A more tender look at one of the game's characters is provided by *Free as a Bird: The Life and Times of Harold "Dickie" Bird*, by David Hopps, which tells you all you want to know about the great umpire while the "anoraks" are well catered for in *Benson & Hedges Cricket Year*, which provides a comprehensive review of the past 12 months' cricket all around the world.

□ *Bradman: An Australian Hero*, by Charles Williams (Little, Brown & Co, £20.00).

□ *Wally Hammond: The Reasons Why*, by David Foot (Robson Books, £17.95).

□ *Allan Lamb: My Autobiography* (Collins Willow, £15.99).

□ *Winning Ways*, by Dermot Reeve with Patrick Murphy (Bantam, £15.99).

□ *One-Man Committee*, by Ray Illingworth and Jack Bannister (Headline, £17.99).

□ *Free as a Bird: The Life and Times of Harold "Dickie" Bird*, by David Hopps (Robson Books, £14.95).

□ *Benson & Hedges Cricket Year*, edited by David Lemmon (Bloomsbury, £20.00).

PAT GIBSON

Hogan leads promising field

IF THIS year is anything to go by, golf is once again getting the decent literature that it deserves. There have been more well-written and interesting books about the game this year than for some time, no longer just biographies and instructional books but books about courses, histories, biographies and novels.

Curt Sampson's *Hogan* is the best golf biography for some time. Hogan remains a figure of great interest almost half a century after his greatest victories. The best tribute that can be paid to Sampson's book is to say that it tells the reader a lot more about Hogan than was known hitherto.

For thoroughness, *Heartbreak Hill* takes some beating as an account of the 1995 Ryder Cup at Oak Hill. Roscliffe is a reporter's reporter, rarely seen without his tape recorder, who worries away at a story as a dog does at a bone, but the impressive amount of shoe leather evidently used in acquiring information is just one of this book's many attributes.

Liz Kahn's *The LPGA: The Unauthorized Version* has been half a lifetime in the making and, as a record of the women's tour in

the United States, could hardly be bettered.

Severiano Ballesteros's *Trouble-Shooting* was written with Robert Green. This is a happy partnership: if there is one person who knows how to get into trouble, it is Green, who has a grip that must cause Ballesteros trouble.

Though David Cannon's photographs are among the best taken for an instructional book, it is dispiriting to look at dozens of pictures of Ballesteros in trouble until one realises that Ballesteros's game was founded on hitting into trouble and getting out of it. Since he was once one of the best in the world in both these departments, he is an ideal choice to demonstrate these talents.

Fast Greens, by Turk Pipkin, is set in Texas and centres on the settling on a golf course of a vendetta between ageing wildcats. Texas evidently produces good writers as easily as it produces good golfers.

□ *Heartbreak Hill*, by Roscliffe (St Martin's Press, New York).

□ *The LPGA: The Unauthorized Version*, by Liz Kahn (AA Publishing, £6.99).

□ *Trouble-Shooting*, by Severiano Ballesteros with Robert Green (Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99).

□ *Golf Has Never Failed Me — The Lost Commentaries of Legendary Golf Architect Donald Ross* (Sleeping Bear Press, 12 Chauntry Road, Bray).

□ *Fast Greens*, by Turk Pipkin (Richard Cohen Books, £8.99).

□ *Bernard Darwin and Aberdovey*, compiled by Peter Burles and Geoffrey Piper (Grant Books, £20).

□ *The Greatest of Them All: The Legend of Bobby Jones*, by Martin Davis (The American Golfer Inc, 135 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830, US).

JOHN HOPKINS

Relating to the mind of a distance runner

WE ALL have our favourite quotations in sport. They can be memorable for being funny, philosophical, tragic, outrageous or inspirational. One which strips the philosophy of training for distance running as bare as it goes appeals to me. "You either ran today or you didn't." No excuses.

The cat died this morning. The wife left me. Ouch, that hangs over. Come bedtime, though, you either ran today or you didn't. I do not suppose I am alone in finding myself changed for bed then having run that day. Off come the pyjamas, on go the trainers, and out of the door you go at close to midnight.

"You either ran today or you didn't" was featured in a sports-wear manufacturer's poster and, for months, it was displayed in my hallway at home. Each time I returned from training I would look at it smugly, until it began to torment me. When a long-standing injury made it impossible to run, I ripped it down.

Now, not having run for 18 months, I suspect I am covered by a quote from a former training partner, similarly with veteran ranks, injured, and with personal bests set a decade ago: "The older you get, the better you used to be." Simple are the best

quotes, which is why *The Quotable Runner* is like training: worth the slog for the highlights.

Now available in Great Britain, the book has enough pithy quotes to make it a worthwhile gift by way of a change from a training log. Mainly, it is a book for the active athlete, because much of it relates to the mind of a runner. First and foremost it is for the distance runner.

The chapter on training is worth leaving open next to the television, for those occasions when you may be tempted to take the evening off. "The will to win means nothing without the will to prepare," Juma Ikangaa, a former New York City Marathon winner, tells.

Mark Will-Weber, the author, tells us that, as a coach, he began collecting quotes to put with race results "as a fun way to jazz up the results sheets and inspire the runners to train with diligence."

□ *The Quotable Runner*, by Mark Will-Weber (available in Britain through *Runner's World* magazine, £12.99).

DAVID POWELL

Nostalgic tribute to friends long gone but not forgotten

IT IS a fact that every one of the 59 racecourses in Great Britain rode out the recession as if it never happened. Companies crashed; homeowners were evicted like impostors at a private party. Racecourses, though, like debt collectors, were never more secure in their line of work.

The scenario says much about the way that British racing is financed. In electing whether to continue supporting each racecourse, the Horserace Betting Levy Board considers its "financial probity". None has fallen foul — which is hardly surprising, for racecourses with the least ambition are the best rewarded.

Racecourses are perceived as integral to spreading the joys of racing, but their facilities are regularly criticised by racegoers. In truth, few fears would be shed if the worst half-dozen were closed overnight. Also, it would spawn more works like *A Long Time Gone*, which portrays defunct racecourses in their most favourable light. In some cases, one suspects that reading this meticulously researched volume is infinitely more enjoyable than attending the venues was.

Those lamenting the passing of Lewes, Lark and Alexandra Palace cannot fail to appreciate this book. It trades heavily on

nostalgia, yet there is enough in Chris Pitt's work to interest even the youngest aficionado.

Jump Jockeys Don't Cry is most accurately judged by its cover, which depicts a wheelchair-bound Sharon Murgatroyd being tenderly licked about the face by a horse. This is a moving autobiographical account of an amateur rider left paralysed by a fall and her struggle to make

sense of the pieces. The text makes no concession to the accident's brutality; nor does it court sympathy. Its impact is in its simplicity: a benefit of Murgatroyd's insistence on penning it herself. Murgatroyd cried all right, but she has emerged all the better for eschewing bravura in dealing with her demons. Quite how she has retained her uplifting effervescence is beyond comprehension.

The influence of *Chasers and Hurdles 1995-96*, Timeform's perennial tome, has waned with the excellent coverage of two daily racing papers. It remains a valuable reference to the season past, but might benefit from a facelift. Its familiar design no longer breeds reassurance. The

endless series of pedantic questions that it asks has become endemic to the text and it should be far more adventurous in what is expected of horses in the future.

Phil Smith and Simon Holt's *Racing Yearbook* has potential. This young annual assaults you with its banter of pictures, which leads to inevitable problems in design. A perfectly acceptable recreation in its present set-up, it would work better in a bigger format, with more selective culling and the inclusion of an index.

There is a gem within it: a jockey is depicted being thrown from his mount at the moment when Alan Shearer scored for England in their Euro 96 semi-final with Germany. Racegoers at Kempton Park, following the match, frightened the animal senseless when acclaiming Shearer's goal.

□ *A Long Time Gone*, by Chris Pitt (Portway Press, £26).

□ *Jump Jockeys Don't Cry*, by Sharon Murgatroyd (Romney Publications, £14.95 hardback, £8.95 paperback).

□ *Chasers and Hurdles 1995-96*, Timeform (Portway Press, £62).

□ *Phil Smith and Simon Holt's Racing Yearbook* (£19.95).

JULIAN MUSCAT



Hill, the Formula One world champion, is also well ahead of his rivals in the sales race

Hill takes pole position for his literary lap of honour

A WORLD championship is one thing, but three best sellers is quite another and, this year, Damon Hill has managed both. A video telling the inside story of his battle with Jacques Villeneuve this season has already outsold every other previous Formula One title and the written offering, *My Championship Year*, is right up there with models of Buzz Lightyear at the top of Christmas lists.

The book, the last of a startlingly successful trilogy charting Hill's swaying fortunes over the past three seasons, follows a tried and trusted formula. Essentially, it is a trek through 16 races and their emotions, but somehow Hill, this time with the diligent and expert help of Tim Collings, has mastered the art of avoiding the press-release-type chronology that some of his rivals seem to succumb to year after year.

Hill always seems to be able to hold back little snippets of interest, details that did not make the papers or any of his press conferences, things that fill in the gaps, for his annuals. Perhaps it is just that they are the kind of minutiae that we would not be interested in except in someone with his profile, but it works.

This time, for instance, there is an account of his telephone conversation with Frank Williams, the team owner, when he

rang to tell Hill that his services would not be required for 1997 and the full story behind the negotiations that he and Michael Breen, his manager, conducted.

Hill's other weapon in the book war, though, is the pictures of Jon Nicholson, quickly establishing himself as one of the foremost sporting photographic chroniclers with an acclaimed book on a year in the life of the England rugby team, *Band of Brothers*, on the shelves, too.

His access to Hill, his pictures of him on holiday with his wife, Georgie, skiing up mountains as part of his training regimen and of his friends toasting his world championship win with champagne in the Williams prefabricated hut at Suzuka, are worth the cover price themselves.

Hill's success on the track has made it hard for any of his rivals to catch up off it. Eddie Irvine, the Ferrari driver from Ulster, created a furore in Northern Ireland with some apparently innocuous comments about the political situation there in his book, *Green Races Red*, a thoughtful, colourful book written with the help of Maurice Hamilton.

Adam Cooper capitalises on his long friendship with Irvine, particularly the time that they spent

together in Japan, with a well-researched, intelligent look at Irvine's early years and his route to the top, *The Luck of the Irish*.

The main rival to Hill's championship year, though, as the best motor racing book of 1996, is something altogether different in tone and time, a product of another era — Eoin Young's affectionate memoirs of 35 years in the sport, *It Beats Working*.

His best stories are the ones surrounding Jim Clark, John Surtees, Chris Amon and Denny Hulme, men whom he knew well, men who treated him as a friend. Those days are gone for ever now, but *It Beats Working* gets as close as anything ever will to recapturing them.

Young even got a few other journalists to buy it at its launch at the German Grand Prix last July. It must be good.

□ *My Championship Year*, by Damon Hill with Tim Collings (Little Brown, £25.00).

□ *Green Races Red*, by Eddie Irvine with Maurice Hamilton (Harper Collins, £14.99).

□ *The Luck of the Irish*, by Adam Cooper (Haynes Publishing, £9.99).

□ *It Beats Working*, by Eoin Young (Patrick Stephens Ltd, £17.99).

OLIVER HOLT

In pursuit of trout with a master

IT HAS been a topsy-turvy year for angling and so it may be appropriate that one of my choices is not really a fishing book at all and that another, strictly speaking, is not even a book.

The value of Laurence Catlow's *Confessions of a Shooting Fishing Man* lies not in what it tells us about the two activities themselves but in the author's exploration of his own motivations in pursuing them. Catlow's words do

not come from the Manual of Political Correctness but they are elegant, honest and mostly helpful words when the world around country activities is in a state of flux.

Second Chance, the angling charity that helps disadvantaged children, has benefited from two pieces of corporate largesse. Channel 4 has allowed it to bring out *Rod and Line*, Arthur Ransome's wonderful collection of fishing essays, in a dramatised video form starring the late Sir Michael Hordern. The original films were shown on Channel 4. Thanks to the publishers, Swan Hill, the charity also receives the proceeds of *Lessons from the Fish*, an anthology of experiences contributed by public figures.

A & C Black, the publishers of, among others, W. C. Stewart in the 19th century and G. E. M. Skues and Arthur Ransome earlier this century, are making a comeback to the angling lists after a long absence. Among their offerings, just published, are John Goddard's *Trout Fishing Techniques*, an excellent work from a modern master.

Finally, there is Jeremy Paxman's provocative reappraisal of *The Complete Angler*. This 20-page limited-edition essay is beautifully bound and boxed.

□ *Confessions of a Shooting Fishing Man*, by Laurence Catlow (Merlin Unwin, £17.99).

□ *Rod and Line* (Second Chance, 130-136 Elm Grove, Southsea, Hampshire PO5 1BA, £20 including p & p).

□ *Lessons from the Fish* (Swan Hill, £18.95).

□ *John Goddard's Trout Fishing Techniques* (A & C Black, £19.95).

□ *The Complete Barble Angler*, by Roger Miller (Crowood, £19.95).

□ *In Pursuit of Big Tench*, by Len Arbery (Crowood, £19.95).

□ *Search for Big Chub*, by Tony Miles (Crowood, £19.95).

□ *Going Fishing*, by Negley Farson (White Lion, £17.95).

□ *A Fly Fisher's Life*, by Charles Ritz (Robert Hale £30).

□ *The Complete Angler*, by Jeremy Paxman (The Fly Fisher's Classic Library, Dartmouth View, Mary Street, Bovey Tracey, Devon TQ13 9HQ, £120).

BRIAN CLARKE

Sobel plots course to top of the list

LONGITUDE, by Dava Sobel, is already nesting in its rightful place at the top of the best-seller lists. Although not originally intended exclusively for a sailing readership, it nevertheless makes fascinating reading for anyone who has been to sea and pressed a button on a GPS set to get a latitude and longitude position in a matter of seconds.

Before a reliable way of calculating longitude was discovered, thousands of sailors met their deaths because their navigation skills were so limited. The search for a solution was so urgent that a £20,000 reward was set up under the Longitude Act of 1714 for anyone who could convince the authorities that they had mastered the matter.

Sobel has written an entertaining short history, describing many of the theories of cranks (one of whom supposed longitude could be derived from the yelps of wounded dogs) and detailing the struggle between John Harrison, the English master clock-maker, and his adversaries, who favoured the so-called "lunar distance" method. Harrison, who built the first virtually friction-free chronometer able to calculate a ship's position to within a few miles, finally triumphed and collected the reward in 1773, but only after

40 years of toil, political intrigue and academic back-biting.

The fourth edition of anything is not often a cause for special attention, but one old warhorse in the sailing library has been given a new lease of life. *This is Sailing: A Complete Course* has already sold more than 900,000 copies since it appeared in 1973. In its new format, it is edited by Jim Saltonstall, the Great Britain Olympic sailing coach.

who has substantially rewritten the text, which is informative and easy to follow. What really marks the book out are the computer-assisted colour photographs, which show the manoeuvres being described in a seamless sequence on the water.

□ *Longitude*, by Dava Sobel (Fourth Estate, £12).

□ *This is Sailing: A Complete Course*, edited by Jim Saltonstall (Adlard Coles Nautical, £15.99).

□ *Handling Troubles Afloat*, by John Mellor (Adlard Coles Nautical, £12.99).

□ *The Delivery*, by Mark Chisnell (Century, £9.99).

EDWARD GORMAN

RACING

Rough Quest finds smaller obstacles blocking his return

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

ROUGH QUEST, the winner of this year's Martell Grand National, will make his seasonal reappearance at Folkestone tomorrow. The contrast between Aintree's 4½-mile test, with obstacles such as Becher's and The Chair, and the 2½-mile race at the Kent track, where the ten-year-old will face ten flights of hurdles, could hardly be greater.

The omens are hardly encouraging either. On the only other occasion Rough Quest ran in a hurdle race, he failed to cover himself in glory. Having his first race in England and only the third race of his career at a Uxeter evening meeting on May 9 1991, the five-year-old fell at the fifth flight.

However, Terry Casey, the trainer of the Aintree victor, was left with little alternative yesterday after frost had forced the cancellation of the meeting at Haydock on Saturday. Rough Quest had been sent to take on One Man in the Tommy White Chase, in preparation for the Pertemps King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day.

"What else can we do? If he is going to run in the King George, he has got to have a race of some description under his belt. They go a good gallop in the King George and unless you have had a previous run you will soon be found out," Casey said.

"I know it is not ideal but we have no other option. I know I played down his fitness before Haydock but he is in pretty good shape. I rode him out at Haydock and he felt on song."

It will be a different ball game over hurdles but the main objective is to have him spot on for Kempton. Mick Fitzgerald, who rode Rough Quest to success at Aintree, admitted: "It's a stark contrast after Aintree but I think it is one the horse will find interesting. Going from the Grand National to a hurdle race will show his versatility. I know Terry Casey is a bit concerned that it is not the ideal preparation but I can't see any problem. He's such a clever horse."

Although Rough Quest has had only one hurdle race, Fitzgerald disclosed he regularly rides him over the smaller obstacles at Casey's stable near Dorking. "It is the way Terry has always done it. Rough Quest pops over three hurdles before jumping some fences. I went down a couple of weeks ago to school him and he felt brilliant."

Gordon Richards, trainer of One Man, the 5-4 on favourite for the King George, had been tempted to give the grey a racecourse gallop at Newcastle today after the loss of racing at Haydock, but thought better of it yesterday. "The horse is super fit. We will be able to give him all the work he needs at home. I'm sure he will be at the top of the class on the day."

RICHARD EVANS
Nap: STORMY CORAL (1.10 Newcastle)
Next best: Mr President (2.30 Warwick)

The Greystoke handler is planning to run The Grey Monk, runner-up in the Hennessy Gold Cup, in the Rowland Meyrick Chase at Wetherby on Boxing Day rather than the Coral Welsh National. Addington Boy, who justified favouritism in a sub-standard Tripleprint Gold Cup on Saturday to earn a quote as low as 1-41 for the Cheltenham Gold Cup, will be kept ticking over but will not race for a few weeks.

Oliver Sherwood was relieved yesterday to find Large Action was none the worse for his exertions after winning the Bonusprint Bula Hurdle on ground fast enough for him. The eight-year-old is likely to have one more race before the Cheltenham Festival, in either the Cleve Hurdle or the £100,000 Tote Gold Trophy - but Sherwood will not decide between the Champion Hurdle and Stayers' Hurdle until much later.

Large Action was off most of last season with a leg injury and with frost still in the ground an hour before racing Sherwood was in two minds whether to run him. "It was a nightmare situation and a calculated gamble. Most of my colleagues thought I was absolutely mad but now and again you have to take a chance and it paid off. I don't want too many days like that again."

The Cheltenham executive probably shares his sentiments. After upbeat early bulletins about the state of the track, despite overnight frost, racing went ahead. But it was a close-run thing.



Large Action, ridden by Osborne, justifies favouritism in the Bonusprint Bula Hurdle at Cheltenham on Saturday

NATIONAL HUNT LEADERS

TRAINERS	W	L	Pl	Win %	Loss %	Pl %
M. Pigg	100	54	46	+11.85	-11.85	0
D. McCain	41	30	18	+8.40	-8.40	0
K. Bailey	41	30	18	+7.52	-7.52	0
P. Hobbs	37	25	26	+0.11	-0.11	0
M. C. M. Reaveley	35	23	15	+13.61	-13.61	0
P. Nicholls	34	26	17	+8.11	-8.11	0
M. Hammond	30	20	23	+7.58	-7.58	0
G. Richards	28	9	5	+11.15	-11.15	0
N. Twiston-Davies	22	18	14	-3.34	-3.34	0
J. Gifford	20	19	9	+8.71	-8.71	0

JOCKEYS	W	L	Pl	Win %	Loss %	Pl %
A. P. McCoy	115	76	43	+7.43	-7.43	0
A. Maguire	55	48	2	+2.19	-2.19	0
R. Dwyer	44	29	8	+3.27	-3.27	0
T. Bridgwater	40	30	10	+10.70	-10.70	0
R. Johnson	47	21	31	+10.20	-10.20	0
I. O'Donnell	47	41	28	+13.10	-13.10	0
R. Gurney	38	24	0	+2.07	-2.07	0
P. Nevin	34	21	20	+2.71	-2.71	0
A. Doherty	34	23	17	+10.32	-10.32	0
K. Williams	31	28	31	-13.34	-13.34	0

Wither Or Which an unlikely starter this term

WITHER OR WHICH, the outstanding National Hunt Flat horse of last season, has suffered a training setback and is unlikely to race this term (Richard Evans writes).

Wille Mullins, who trains the five-year-old and rode him to success in the Festival Bumper at Cheltenham in March, said yesterday: "He got a knock about six weeks ago while schooling over hurdles. He's doing only light exercise and we will make a decision about whether he races this season next month, but I would say it is unlikely."

"Our target would have been Cheltenham but I don't think he will have the necessary preparation for it. We

Frankie Dettori was fortunate to escape injury in a fall at Sha Tin, in Hong Kong, on Saturday. Dettori's mount, Magic Power, clipped the heels of another runner and came down. The racecourse doctor ordered Dettori to hospital but, after a check up, the jockey was discharged.

have been advised to do nothing strenuous with him until well into January and it is worth giving him time to get right. Everyone is happy to give this year a miss.

"Obviously it is disappointing but there has been such bad luck with horses in Ireland this year with the dry weather we have had. At least we will have a horse next year: lots of people won't."

Lo Stregone, trained by Tom Tate, has been removed from William Hill's betting on the Coral Welsh National at Chepstow. The gelding had been quoted at 9-1. William Hill now makes Belmont King the 7-2 favourite.

So many questions, no easy answers

The 26th Gimcrack Dinner passed convivially enough until the speakers delivered oratorical as might be expected in a notorious court case. Tim Bulwer-Long, representing the racehorse owner, Wafic Said, and Lord Wakeham, chairman of the British Horseracing Board (BHB), offered vigorously opposing views on how the sport should progress.

It was as if a verdict was expected of guests unexpectedly coerced into jury service. Instead, we drank a toast to the future of British racing. We wished it well, knowing that wishing was an impotent antidote to its ills.

In London tomorrow, the industry committee of the BHB's annual forum marks a logical starting point for debating racing's future. There will be blood-letting after the failure to secure a reduction in betting duty. However, before horsemen vent their fury, they should reflect on the wisdom of the numerous demands recently made of the BHB. Some are valid, some are not. Ten of

them are outlined below, together with a personal view.

Lord Wakeham should resign as BHB chairman. False. Lord Wakeham remains racing's best hope in the political arena. Too much hope was vested in a betting duty reduction. Not enough has been done to combat day-to-day problems.

The BHB is in need of new blood. True. If this is the best it can do, fresh ideas are needed to shape the sport's future. Within the decision-making process, factionalism rides roughshod over the sport's best interests. The BHB has done well in its formative years but progress has not been maintained.

Racing must work with bookmakers so that approaches to government are made from a position of unity. False. This is government's preference, but the goal is totally unrealistic. As John Brown, of William Hill, admitted last week, the distribution of tax reductions are

bound to be hotly contested. It was suggested a lack of harmony compromised the case for a cut in betting duty. Similarly contrasting arguments did not prevent a reduction 12 months ago. Owners are shabbily rewarded for their investment. True. To denounce owners as



Racing Commentary

whingeing millionaires is inaccurate and complacent. Owners are the most important entity in the sport. Notice that the most discordant are those with the biggest investment. Where would racing be without them?

Owners should adopt a more vociferous stance in pressing their case. True, but only to a point. The only realistic route to achieving better prize-money is through a reduction in betting duty. The case for historical underfunding is compelling; it should be further developed through racing's friends in Parliament. Conflict with the BHB will dilute the argument at a time when racing is better understood in Parliament than ever before.

Because owners can reclaim VAT on bloodstock trades, government should be pressed to acknowledge ownership as a business activity, permitting losses to be offset against income tax. False. The most likely outcome would see the VAT concession withdrawn.

Racing should actively pursue a tote monopoly. False. The word Utopia might have been coined for this ambition. Bookmakers run legitimate businesses. As Conservative MP Nicholas Budgen noted last week: Who is to pay compensation to hundreds of businesses and their 50,000 staff if bookmakers are shut?

The outlook for racing's finances is bleak. True. Racing's share of the betting market will shrink alarmingly over the next decade. Only with an improved product can racing combat the threat of lotteries, numbers games, slot machines and sports and spread betting.

In its present financial state, racing cannot properly sustain 59 racecourses. True. Rather than a two-tier system, fixtures should be funded so that racecourses are rewarded according to the standard of their racing. This will encourage ambitious racecourses and leave the uninspired to wither.

Racing must pursue a fixture list which maximises levy ahead of other priorities. False. This is the view of the bookmakers and the BHB has oversubscribed to it. There is too much bad racing. Not enough care is taken of racing's principal customers. There should be far more evening racing in summer and far less racing on week-day afternoons, when bookmakers are the principal beneficiaries. If bookmakers want such fixtures, they should contribute towards the cost of staging them.

Horsemen should consider where they stand on these issues before rounding on the BHB. They will find they are far from united. If the BHB is to adopt their philosophy, horsemen must first present it coherently. Until then, the relationship between horsemen and the BHB will resemble David's depiction of the Spanish Civil War: the two-headed monster reducing itself to the state of a bleeding carcass.

WARWICK

THUNDERER
12.30 Albion, 1.00 Severn Gate, 1.30 Gyeat, 2.00 Lord Macmurrough, 2.30 Mr President, 3.00 Bridge Delight, 3.30 Lets Be Frank.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.00 PRIDEWICK PICKER.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

12.30 HAMPTON JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (2.00, 2m 110yd) (7)

- 1-3 CROWN AND GUYARD 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 2-10 SEATH NEARBY 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 3-14 BALDWIN PROGRESS 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 4-21 LADY MACGILL 14 (2) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 5-18 THEA ARENA 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 6-10 ALBION 10 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 7-12 BRIGHT COURSE 12 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 8-14 BRIGHT COURSE 14 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 9-16 BRIGHT COURSE 16 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 10-18 BRIGHT COURSE 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58

1.00 GOS BROOK HURDLE (2.00, 2m) (5)

- 1-3 CROWN AND GUYARD 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 2-10 SEATH NEARBY 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 3-14 BALDWIN PROGRESS 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 4-21 LADY MACGILL 14 (2) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 5-18 THEA ARENA 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 6-10 ALBION 10 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 7-12 BRIGHT COURSE 12 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 8-14 BRIGHT COURSE 14 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 9-16 BRIGHT COURSE 16 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 10-18 BRIGHT COURSE 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58

1.30 BURBOURNE NOVICES CHASE (2.00, 2m 110yd) (7)

- 1-3 CROWN AND GUYARD 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 2-10 SEATH NEARBY 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 3-14 BALDWIN PROGRESS 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 4-21 LADY MACGILL 14 (2) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 5-18 THEA ARENA 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 6-10 ALBION 10 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 7-12 BRIGHT COURSE 12 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 8-14 BRIGHT COURSE 14 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 9-16 BRIGHT COURSE 16 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 10-18 BRIGHT COURSE 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58

2.00 ETTINGTON HANDICAP HURDLE (2.00, 2m 110yd) (7)

- 1-3 CROWN AND GUYARD 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 2-10 SEATH NEARBY 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 3-14 BALDWIN PROGRESS 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 4-21 LADY MACGILL 14 (2) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 5-18 THEA ARENA 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 6-10 ALBION 10 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 7-12 BRIGHT COURSE 12 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 8-14 BRIGHT COURSE 14 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 9-16 BRIGHT COURSE 16 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 10-18 BRIGHT COURSE 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58

2.30 STONELEIGH HANDICAP CHASE (2.00, 2m 110yd) (7)

- 1-3 CROWN AND GUYARD 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 2-10 SEATH NEARBY 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 3-14 BALDWIN PROGRESS 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 4-21 LADY MACGILL 14 (2) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 5-18 THEA ARENA 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 6-10 ALBION 10 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 7-12 BRIGHT COURSE 12 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 8-14 BRIGHT COURSE 14 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 9-16 BRIGHT COURSE 16 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 10-18 BRIGHT COURSE 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58

3.00 ROECHST ROUSSEL PANACUR EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND MARES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,552, 2m 110yd) (10)

- 1-3 CROWN AND GUYARD 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 2-10 SEATH NEARBY 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 3-14 BALDWIN PROGRESS 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 4-21 LADY MACGILL 14 (2) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 5-18 THEA ARENA 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 6-10 ALBION 10 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 7-12 BRIGHT COURSE 12 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 8-14 BRIGHT COURSE 14 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 9-16 BRIGHT COURSE 16 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 10-18 BRIGHT COURSE 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58

3.30 TEMPLE GRAFTON NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (2.00, 2m 110yd) (14)

- 1-3 CROWN AND GUYARD 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 2-10 SEATH NEARBY 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 3-14 BALDWIN PROGRESS 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 4-21 LADY MACGILL 14 (2) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 5-18 THEA ARENA 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 6-10 ALBION 10 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 7-12 BRIGHT COURSE 12 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 8-14 BRIGHT COURSE 14 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 9-16 BRIGHT COURSE 16 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 10-18 BRIGHT COURSE 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58

COURSE SPECIALISTS

- TRAINERS: P. Dwyer, 3 wins, 10, 30.0%, P. Hobbs, 3 wins, 11, 27.2%, M. Pigg, 2 wins, 11, 24.0%, R. Abbot, 4 wins, 12, 33.3%.
- JOCKEYS: J. Gifford, 3 wins, 22.0%, C. Llewellyn, 3 wins, 22.0%, N. Williams, 11 wins, 57.0%, J. Gifford, 13 wins, 69.0%.

NEWTON ABBOT

THUNDERER
12.50 Palomares, 1.20 MISS DISKIN (nap), 1.50 Mulhassan, 2.20 James The First, 2.50 Searno's Breeze, 3.20 Bramblehill Buck, 3.50 Celtic Rose.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES) SIS

12.50 NOT SO RED SELLING HURDLE (2.00, 2m 110yd) (5)

- 1-3 CROWN AND GUYARD 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 2-10 SEATH NEARBY 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 3-14 BALDWIN PROGRESS 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 4-21 LADY MACGILL 14 (2) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 5-18 THEA ARENA 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58

1.20 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND TATTERSALLS IRELAND HANDICAP HURDLE (2.00, 2m 110yd) (12)

- 1-3 CROWN AND GUYARD 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 2-10 SEATH NEARBY 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 3-14 BALDWIN PROGRESS 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 4-21 LADY MACGILL 14 (2) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 5-18 THEA ARENA 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 6-10 ALBION 10 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 7-12 BRIGHT COURSE 12 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 8-14 BRIGHT COURSE 14 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 9-16 BRIGHT COURSE 16 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 10-18 BRIGHT COURSE 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58

1.50 LES SEWARD MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP HURDLE (2.00, 2m 110yd) (7)

- 1-3 CROWN AND GUYARD 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 2-10 SEATH NEARBY 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 3-14 BALDWIN PROGRESS 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 4-21 LADY MACGILL 14 (2) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 5-18 THEA ARENA 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 6-10 ALBION 10 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 7-12 BRIGHT COURSE 12 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58

COURSE SPECIALISTS

- TRAINERS: D. McCain, 7 winners from 16 runners, 38.9%, P. Hobbs, 41 runs, 140, 28.6%, J. Gifford, 3 wins, 20.0%, P. Hobbs, 30 runs, 124, 26.6%, A. McCann, 9 wins, 36, 25.0%.
- JOCKEYS: G. Terry, 5 winners from 15 runs, 33.3%, A. P. McCoy, 27 runs, 112, 20.0%, C. Llewellyn, 28 runs, 110, 21.8%, A. Thomson, 13 runs, 62, 20.6%, R. Patten, 4 runs, 22, 18.2%.

2.20 WEATHERBYS 1997 DIARY HANDICAP CHASE (2.00, 2m 110yd) (4)

- 1-3 CROWN AND GUYARD 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 2-10 SEATH NEARBY 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 3-14 BALDWIN PROGRESS 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 4-21 LADY MACGILL 14 (2) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58

2.50 TOM HOLT AND REALITY NOVICES HURDLE (2.00, 2m 110yd) (7)

- 1-3 CROWN AND GUYARD 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 2-10 SEATH NEARBY 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 3-14 BALDWIN PROGRESS 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 4-21 LADY MACGILL 14 (2) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 5-18 THEA ARENA 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 6-10 ALBION 10 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 7-12 BRIGHT COURSE 12 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58

3.20 POT BLACK CHILDCRAFT HANDICAP CHASE (2.00, 2m 110yd) (8)

- 1-3 CROWN AND GUYARD 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 2-10 SEATH NEARBY 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 3-14 BALDWIN PROGRESS 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 4-21 LADY MACGILL 14 (2) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 5-18 THEA ARENA 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 6-10 ALBION 10 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 7-12 BRIGHT COURSE 12 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58

3.50 BULFIN CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (Amateur: £2,300; 2m) (14)

- 1-3 CROWN AND GUYARD 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 2-10 SEATH NEARBY 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58
- 3-14 BALDWIN PROGRESS 20 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 4-21 LADY MACGILL 14 (2) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 5-18 THEA ARENA 18 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... R. Johnson 58
- 6-10 ALBION 10 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... P. Hobbs 58
- 7-12 BRIGHT COURSE 12 (5) (J. Gifford) 11-5... G. Richards 58

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER
12.40 J. J. Baboo, 2.10 Singing Sand, 2.45 Celtic Giant, 3.15 Brancher.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143

Julia Gregson on the patience and commitment needed to learn the art and the discipline of dressage

Turning equine Escorts into highly responsive Ferraris

I want to stay her friend so I'm learning to listen to her more, to understand when she's tired or bolshie. Sometimes, when I don't ask for much, she gives a lot more."

What's this then? A breakthrough moment at Relate? An encounter group? No, actually it's a 12-year-old learning the magical intricacies of horse training at a regional training session organised by the British Young Riders' Dressage Scheme (Byrds for short). The training sessions, open to anyone under 21 and costing £10 a day, are part of some exciting new initiatives organised by the dressage group to talent spot for future British team members, and also to introduce any child who is interested in the fastest growing branch of equine activity.

Our two-day course was held at Claypits Farm, in Gloucestershire. The teacher was Annabel Scrimgeour, who has trained Olympic riders, three-day event riders such as Mark Todd and Lucinda Murray.

The pupil was my 12-year-old daughter, Poppy, encouraged to talk about her own mysterious, magical and growing relationship with her 12-year-old mare, Miss L.A. (Ellie to her friends), a Welsh cross thoroughbred. All riders like to pretend that their mounts were unrideable brumbies before they tamed them, but our Ellie was once a genuine bovver girl — lasting only a week in one home because she refused to have a bridle or saddle put on, and returned from another because she was too lively.

When Poppy met Ellie both were addicted to high speed and bombing across country and both were prescribed more dressage, more flat

SPORT FOR ALL

work. Poppy thought dressage was mostly dullsville — trotting round in dutiful circles; but two gifted teachers (Tony Clarke, an ex-mounted policeman, and the Olympic team rider Jane Bredin) plus the Byrds scheme with its emphasis on excellence have since fired her imagination.

Dressage is both an art and a discipline — at its best it produces what look like lyrically happy marriages between horse and rider. The horse working with a kind of willing gaiety, the rider listening and attentive and soft with hands and aids.

Achieving this blissful state takes hours and hours of hard work. The training consists of a series of graduated steps where horse and rider work on balance, collection, suppleness, impulsion. All competitive horses have to have these building blocks in place. Done well, dressage can turn the humblest equine Ford Escort into a fabulously responsive Ferrari. (Jane Bredin turned her first £670 pony, brought from a market, into a pony club champion.) Taught badly it can bore your bottom off.

In Germany and Holland, two countries that excel in the discipline, children are taught from the moment they can sit on a horse to understand the immense subtleties and satisfactions of this training. (At some schools, for instance, children are allowed to school their horses rather than play hockey.) Dressage has much to teach children about poise and posture, respect, discipline and patience. Lose your temper with a horse, they are told over and over again, and it may brood for weeks and sometimes forever. We've been slow in the UK to get high-level training to children but the dressage group, helped by sponsorship from Spillers horse feeds and Sheepgate nurseries, are now determined to put things right.

At a recent open day for the new-style Byrds, some of the best trainers in the world came together to pass on their energy and commitment. One of the first demonstrations was from Jenni Loriston-Clarke, who has represented Britain in dressage many times. With a young rider on one of her horses she showed how the best riders tune themselves to the horse's movements. The most important thing is to feel the movement of the horse to be loose in the waist (the movement is a little like using a hoola hoop). Bursback riding, she said, helps this balancing, and she still spends weeks training without stirrups.

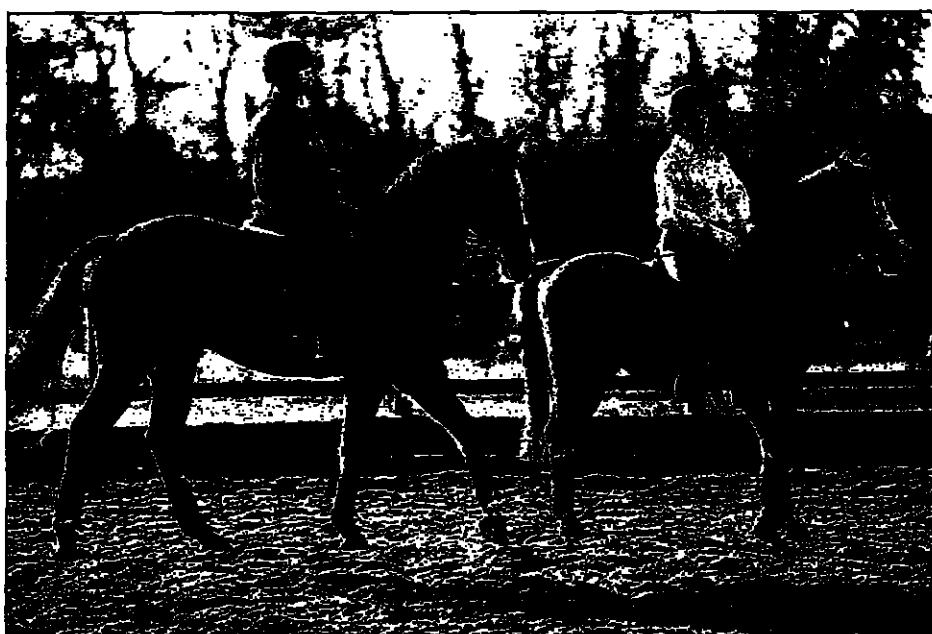
The dashing young rider Daniel Sherriff, who a week before had taken a regional training course, gave a fine demonstration of riding on his showoff stallion, under the rigorous eye of his own trainer, David Hunt.

Daniel, one of the rising stars of British dressage, hopes to make the Olympics in 2000, as do many of the young riders watching him. Everybody comes with their dreams but no one could have left this day in any doubt about the hours of work and patience it takes to train a good horse. And pots of money? Well yes and no.

One of the problems dressage suffers from is that when young riders sit on their muscled, gleaming mounts



Under the Byrds scheme youngsters are seen by experts such as Ian Woodhead, who coaches the British pony team; he and his wife Tracey run their stables near Grimsby



Kate Elliott, left, a skilled young pony rider, is the daughter of a Grimsby fisherman

dressed in their velvet hats, white stocks, beautifully cut jackets and gleaming leather boots, they all look as though Daddy is a millionaire. In fact, even the briefest of looks at, say, last year's British pony team shows how broadly based the sport has become. Kate Elliott, a superbly skilled young pony rider, is the daughter of a Grimsby fisherman and a mother who works at Marks & Spencer.

Tim Heapey, is a doctor's son whose mother admits they put in a new arena before they could afford a stove. Sarah Millis is a hard-working teenager whose life is dedicated to training her ponies; and last year's "individual" rider at the European Championships, Charlotte Edmonds, daughter of Noel Edmonds, has had to fight for her place in this competitive world like everybody else.

"Although it's thrilling to represent your country," says Jane Kidd, the Byrds chairman, "we think it's important not to get too fixated on being in teams, but to see that what you are getting is a training from some of the top people that you will have forever."



Tracey Parker grooms the horses at the Grimsby stables

GETTING STARTED

How the Byrds scheme works: First are Talent Spotting Days. In the morning group lessons are held. In the afternoon two riders go through to the finals. Remember that it is the standard of the rider that is being assessed not the pony. There is a separate scheme for Juniors (riders above 14) and Young riders, where the standard at talent spotting is Preliminary and above.

The next step up the ladder is on a Regional Training Course where the standard is Novice, and above (all dressage tests are graded from Preliminary to Novice, Medium and above). The next step is Squad Training. To be eligible, you must be recommended from regional training or have good competition results. At the top is Team Training. To be eligible you have to have taken part in squad trials throughout the year.

Lessons: Groups (from £10 an hour) and private (£35). Equipment: A black or navy coat (from £40.00 new or from £15 in the thriving market in secondhand clothes); cream or white breeches (£20 upwards); a white shirt and stock; a BHS-approved riding hat (£30); leather boots (new from £150, secondhand from £50); white or navy gloves. General inquiries on junior dressage to Karen Ryder (British Horse Society) 01203 696697.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

When the opponents bid a slam and you have KJ652 of your trump suit, you normally expect to make an entry on the "We" side of the scoresheet. I failed to do so on this TGR hand.

Dealer South Love all Rubber bridge

♠ A974
♥ 10883
♦ 44
♣ KQ75

♠ K1085
♥ —
♦ J1083
♣ J8654

♠ 62
♥ KJ652
♦ 97652
♣ 99

Final contract: Six Hearts by South

Lead: Six of clubs

After South opened 2NT a point light and admitted to a four-card heart suit over Stayman, North propelled him into Six Hearts.

The declarer won the club lead in dummy, and continued by running the ten of hearts. West discarding a spade. Receiving the bad news, declarer then led a club towards his ace. I was East. How should I defend?

I had a feeling that, if I ruffed the club, I might be ruffing a loser. In practice that does not matter, as declarer could never both draw trumps and make use of dummy's fourth club. However, had I ruffed, he could still have succeeded by throwing away the ace of clubs. He can then arrange to draw trumps, using the ace of spades and a diamond ruff as entry, and subsequently squeeze West in the black suits.

So, not ruffing was correct, but my diamond discard was

wrong. Declarer won the ace of clubs, took two spade tricks by way of the finesse, and then discarded two of dummy's spades on his high diamonds. That left him with

♠ 3 ♠ A Q 7 ♦ — ♠ 10, and dummy with

♠ — ♥ 9 8 3 ♦ — ♠ K 7;

I had

♠ — ♥ K J 6 5 ♦ 9 9 ♠ —

When he ruffed the spade with a high heart, whatever I did allowed declarer to make four of the last five tricks.

Discarding a spade on the second round of clubs was correct. Then I can ruff the second round of spades and the declarer cannot pick up my remaining trumps. His only entry to dummy is a diamond ruff, when he plays trumps I insert an honour and must come to a second trump trick.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORDWATCHERS

By Philip Howard

QUISQUOUS

a. Whomsoever
b. The Kiwi fruit
c. Perplexing

WEDBEDRIP

a. A day's harvest
b. Marriage allowance
c. Bed-wetting

ALPHAMERIC

a. Geometric algebra
b. Letters and numbers
c. Here today, gone tomorrow
TABARD
a. A tunic
b. A weekend poet
c. A boar-hound

Answers on page 41

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Hot pursuit

The elite tournament in Las Palmas is producing a level field, with no players able to break away seriously from the pack. By and large, caution appears to be the order of the day and the only player who has displayed overtly aggressive tendencies throughout — Veselin Topalov, the Bulgarian grandmaster — has been punished by two defeats with the white pieces. He languishes in bottom place.

In the fourth round Kasparov was unable to overcome the resistance of Viswanathan Anand, his challenger in the world championship match last year, while Karpov and Kramnik were both content to draw their fourth consecutive game. The main excitement was provided by Ivanchuk's win against Topalov.

White: Veselin Topalov
Black: Vassily Ivanchuk
Las Palmas, December 1996

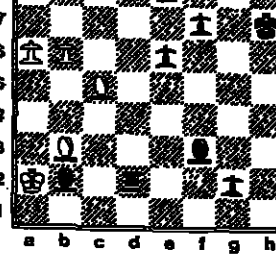
Caro-Kann Defence

1 e4 c6
2 d4 d5
3 Nc2 dxe4
4 Nxe4 Nd7
5 Ng5 Ng6
6 Bc3 Bb6
7 Nf3 Bb7
8 Qe2 h6
9 Ne4 Nxe4
10 Qxe4 Nf6
11 Qe2 Qc7
12 Bc2 b6
13 O-O-O Sb7
14 Nc1 Rd8
15 Rg1 c5
16 dxc5 Qxc5
17 a3 Qd5
18 Qd5 Qxf3
19 g5 Qxf3

20 gxf6 Bxf6
21 Bxf6 Bxf6
22 Rh1 Qxf6
23 Bxe2 Rxf6
24 Rxf1 Rf8
25 f3 Bg5
26 Bg7 g5
27 Rd7 Bc6
28 Rxf7 Rf6
29 a4 Bc5
30 a5 Rf2
31 Bc4 b5
32 Bb3 Bx3
33 Rf7 Rf6
34 Rf8+ Kh7
35 Bf8 Rf1+
36 Kf2 Bxf6
37 g4 g4
38 c4 Rf2
39 cxb5 g3
40 b6 g2
41 Bc5 Bxb2

White resigns

Diagram of final position



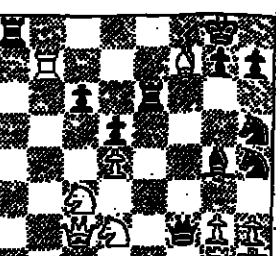
Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Sharov — Retinsky, Ukraine, 1995. It appears that White has just made a vital breakthrough on f7 and that now Black must lose material. However, Black had a brilliant counter in mind. How did the game continue?



Solution on page 41

Save £2 on China exhibition tickets



The Times, in association with the British Museum, gives you the opportunity to get a discount off the price of tickets for the China exhibition. Instead of the full price of £5, Times readers can buy tickets for £3 each.

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CHANGING TIMES

Court of Appeal

School governors an emanation of the state

National Union of Teachers and Others v Governing Body of St Mary's Church of England (Aided) Junior School and Others

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Schiemann
[Judgment December 12]
The governing body of a voluntary aided school could be regarded as an emanation of the state in the context of the doctrine that an individual could rely directly on the provisions of a European Community directive against the state or an emanation of the state.
The Court of Appeal, allowing the appeal of the National Union of Teachers and three of its members, Mr Roy Fidge, Mr David Childs-Clarke and Alexander Emmellino, from the dismissal by the Employment Appeal Tribunal (The Times November 9, 1994, [1995] ICR 317) of its appeal from a decision of an industrial tribunal at Ashford on a preliminary issue, that Council Directive 77/187/EEC, the acquired rights directive (Q1 1977 No 161/24) was not directly enforceable against a voluntary aided school, namely St Mary's Church of England Junior School, Swanley, Kent, as it was not an emanation of the state.
Kent County Council and the temporary governing body of St Mary's were also respondents.
Regulation 8 of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (SI 1981 No 1794) provides: "Where either before or after a relevant transfer, any employee of the transferee... is dismissed, that employee shall be treated... as unfairly dismissed if the transfer or a reason connected with it is the reason or

principal reason for his dismissal."
Mr John Hand, QC and Mr Thomas Linden for the teachers; Mr Timothy Straker, QC, for the respondents.
LORD JUSTICE SCHIEMANN said that the appeal arose from the dismissal of three teachers, employed at a school which was closed along with its neighbour, who were dismissed allegedly for redundancy. On the day after the closure a new school opened its doors.
Most of the teachers who had been employed at the two closed schools were employed at the new school; not so the appellants. On the face of it there was no answer to the assertion that they had been dismissed by the governors for redundancy.
In general the law provided some protection for employees whose former employer's undertaking was transferred to someone else. That protection arose from the acquired rights directive which was transposed into UK legislation by the 1981 Regulations.
In due course the UK government became aware that it had incorrectly transposed the definition of "undertaking" in regulation 2 of the 1981 Regulations (which had the effect of disqualifying the appellants).
That was corrected by the Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Act 1993 but that did not help the appellants who had been dismissed three months previously. They therefore had to rely directly on the rights given by the directive before the industrial tribunal.
The jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice established that directives could in certain circumstances give rights to individuals. An individual whose

rights had been infringed could rely on the doctrine of direct effect and seek to sue the member state or emanation of the state in which case the latter was inhibited under the jurisprudence developed by the European Court from relying on the failure of the state correctly to transpose the directive.
It was clear from a series of cases before the European Court that the concept of an emanation of the state for the purposes of the doctrine of vertical effect was a very broad one and certainly extended to local authorities.
Mr Straker did not formally concede that point but did not argue to the contrary.
Both parties relied on *Foster v British Gas plc* [1991] 2 AC 306 which was decided by the House of Lords after having obtained an opinion from the European Court. The issue which faced the court in that case was whether the appellants could rely as against the British Gas Corporation on an unimplemented Council Directive.
The European Court expressed its ruling in paragraph 20 of the judgment: "A body, whatever its legal form, which has been made responsible, pursuant to a measure adopted by the state, for providing a public service under control of the state and has for that purpose special powers beyond those normally applicable in relations between individuals is included among the bodies against which the provisions of a Directive capable of having direct effect may be relied upon."
It was clear from the wording of paragraph 20 and in particular the phrase "included among" that the formula there used was not intended to be exclusive.

The test of the European Court, in *Foster v British Gas* of whether a body was an emanation of state consisted of a tripartite, cumulative set of criteria namely:
(a) Has the body made responsible pursuant to a measure adopted by the state for providing a public service?
(b) Is that service under the control of the state?
(c) Does the body for that purpose have special powers beyond those which apply between individuals?

Voluntary schools chose of their own volition to come within the state system. However, once within the system, they were subject to a considerable degree of control and influence by the Secretary of State for Education and the local education authority.
It was an oddity inherent in the respondents' submissions that whereas they accepted that voluntary school caretakers, employed by the local authority, might rely on the directive, because the local authority was an emanation of the state, they submitted that school teachers employed by the governors might not, because the governors were not an emanation of the state.
Had the governors been made responsible pursuant to a measure adopted by the state for providing a public service?
Mr Straker submitted that they had not because the diocese was free to decide whether or not to apply to make the school a voluntary aided school. He submitted that in England no one person was responsible for the provision of education. That responsibility was shared between parents, schools, local education authorities and the Secretary of State.
Mr Hand submitted that once

Employer's liability for racial abuse at work

liability for the acts committed by its employees since those acts were not done within the scope of their employment and therefore did not come within section 32(1).

The tribunal found that the acts complained of were authorised, albeit done in an unauthorised manner and the company not having satisfied the defence in section 32(3) was responsible for them.
The sole ground of appeal to the EAT was that "in the course of his employment" had to be subject to the same principles as applied in the establishment of vicarious liability of an employer at common law and that at common law a master was liable for acts which he had not authorised, provided they were so connected with acts which he had authorised, that it might rightly be regarded as a mode, albeit an improper mode, of doing them.
The acts complained of could not possibly have been described as being done in the course of employment nor were they modes of doing the job they were employed to do. The majority of the EAT accepted those contentions and allowed the appeal.
Preferring the submissions of the appellant, his Lordship said that it made no sense that an act should be done with the knowledge and approval of the employer but that the employer should not be vicariously liable because the act was not done within the scope of his employment according to common law principles. He accordingly allowed the appeal.
LORD JUSTICE WAITE, agreeing that the issue was of widespread importance and that the Act should be construed according to its legislative purpose and by giving the words in the section their normal meaning.
The general thrust of the Act was educative, persuasive and, where necessary, coercive. The relief accorded to victims of discrimination went beyond the ordinary remedies of damages and an injunction, introducing provisions with a proactive function designed as much to eliminate the occasions for discrimination as to compensate its victims or punish its perpetrators.
A purposive construction required section 32 to be given a broad interpretation and it would be inconsistent with that requirement to allow the notion of "course of employment" to be construed in any sense more limited than the natural meaning of those everyday words would allow.
Mr Allen, while acknowledging that there was a broad conceptual similarity between the employer's responsibility that applied both in the context of tortious liability in an employment context and in discrimination in the employment context, submitted that substantial

Anti-competitive behaviour in council tender terms

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Before Mr Justice Laws
[Judgment November 26]
Circumstances where a local authority seeking tenders for a building contract declined to provide information relating to transfer of undertakings save on terms that the tenderer delivered a bid incorporating such information was capable of amounting to anti-competitive behaviour.
Mr Justice Laws sitting at Leeds in the Queen's Bench Division so stated in a reserved judgment when dismissing an application

The council replied that it would release information on an undertaking that the firm produce a bid. A bid was made but not accepted because the council claimed breach of the undertaking. The contract was awarded in-house.
Complaints were made to the secretary of state who served notice under section 19A of the 1980 Act, as inserted, that extraction of an undertaking to submit a bid as a condition for the release of information was anti-competitive. The secretary of state was subsequently not satisfied that the council had complied with section 9(4)(a) of the 1980 Act, as inserted, and served a direction prohibiting the council from carrying out the contract work.
Mr Patrick Elias, QC and Mr John Cavanagh for the council; Mr Ian Burnett for the secretary of state.
MR JUSTICE LAWS said that the content was the statutory prohibition of anti-competitive behaviour by local authorities in their public functions, by means of their own employed labour force, as opposed to external contractors. If they could do so competitively.
The secretary of state had issued a direction under section 9(4)(a) of the 1980 Act, as inserted, in the provision of local authority services. There were also policy documents, which did not have statutory status, in the form of an issues paper and covering

letter issued on January 21, 1994 following consultation on matters relating to the transfer of undertakings.
His Lordship found that the terms of those documents were inconsistent with the circular which did not purport to be exhaustive. The policy set out in the documents was one which was open to the secretary of state to adopt in order to promote competition.
It might be that at least in some circumstances a tenderer would gain an edge or advantage by possession of information relating to transfer of undertakings from the local authority.
But, as it seemed to his Lordship, the secretary of state was entitled to take the view that the provision of such information without strings would, in short, encourage outside bidders to enter the ring to tender as they saw fit.
As a matter of law, following the approach in *R v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Knowles Metropolitan Borough Council* (unreported CA July 31, 1991), the circumstances that an authority might decline to provide transfer information save on terms that the tenderer delivered a transfer bid was capable of amounting to anti-competitive conduct.
The secretary of state was plainly entitled to make a direction.
The extraction by the council of the undertaking was in law capable of being viewed as anti-competitive conduct. It was open to the secretary of state to treat it as such on all the facts.
Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Mr Andrew Jeffries, Oldham.

Whether party bound by previous findings

In re B (Care proceedings: Issue estoppel)
Before Mr Justice Hale
[Judgment November 1]
In cases concerning children, the weight of Court of Appeal authority was against the existence of any strict rule of issue estoppel; if a party wished to rely on findings made in previous proceedings in order to prove a case it was for the court to consider how that should be done.
Mrs Justice Hale so stated in the Family Division in a judgment delivered in chambers and reported with her Ladyship's consent on the understanding that the names of instructing solicitors were omitted. Her Ladyship was making a determination on a preliminary issue as to whether a party in current proceedings was bound by a finding of fact in

previous proceedings in which some of the parties had been different.
Mr Graham Parnell for the local authority; Mr Alan Inglis for the mother; Miss Alison Ball, QC, for the father; Miss Elizabeth Coleman for the guardian ad litem.
MRS JUSTICE HALE said that the case raised important questions as to the scope and application of the doctrine of issue estoppel in children cases.
Here the issue was whether, in the current care proceedings, the father was bound by a finding of fact in previous care proceedings relating to other children and the nature of their careful consideration of precedent, was "not necessarily".
Although there was nothing in the decisions to suggest that the rule of issue estoppel was wider in

family cases than in ordinary civil litigation, it was open to the court to set aside the doctrine because of the overriding duty to get at the truth in the interests of the child.
That was the view taken by Mr Justice Ward in *K v P (Children Act proceedings: Estoppel)* [1995] 1 FLR 248 and by the Court of Appeal in *Re S (Discharge of care order)* [1995] 2 FLR 629 and reflected both the greater inquisitorial role the court had in children cases together with the need for flexibility of approach.
e1.1 However, that did not mean that the court was bound to allow evidence to be called on each and every potentially relevant issue but had a discretion as to how a party in one case could rely on findings in previous proceedings.
Some of the factors to be borne in mind were:
1 Underlying considerations of public policy such as finality in litigation;
2 The prejudicial effect of delay on the welfare of the child balanced against the likely effect of reliance upon determinations of fact which might turn out to have been erroneous;
3 What form the previous hearings had taken;
4 The importance of previous findings in the context of current proceedings;
5 Above all, whether a rehearing of the issue would result in any substantially different finding.
The court's discretion, like the rule of issue estoppel, as Lord Upjohn had pointed out in *Carl Zeiss Stiftung v Rayner & Keeler Ltd (No 2)* [1967] 1 AC 853, 947 "must be applied so as to work justice and not injustice".

Legislation bundle required

Cresswell in the Lord Chief Justice of England's Court, so stated on December 6, 1996, when handing down a practice direction.
THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE
On lodging an application for leave to apply for judicial review a bundle of the relevant legislative provisions and statutory instruments had to be lodged in addition to the material already required to be lodged by *Practice Direction (Crown Office List: Preparation for hearings)* (The Times October 27, 1994; [1994] 1 WLR 1551) a paginated, indexed bundle of the relevant legislative provisions and statutory instruments required for the proper consideration of the application.
An applicant who acted in person should comply with the same direction so far as he or she was able.
In any event, an applicant acting in person should list the legislative provisions and statutory instruments on which he or she relied.

Northern Ireland Law Report December 16 1996 Court of Appeal

New procedures do not affect dismissal of probationary lecturers

Deman v Queen's University of Belfast
Before Sir Brian Hutton, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Mc Dermott and Lord Justice Nicholson
[Judgment September 19]
The procedure for terminating the employment of a lecturer at Queen's University of Belfast had not been fundamentally changed by the new procedures for dismissing academic staff for good cause and redundancy added to the university's statutes by the University Commissioners for Northern Ireland pursuant to the Education (Academic Tenure) (Northern Ireland) Order 1988.
The Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland held in dismissing an appeal by the applicant, Suresh Deman, against a refusal by Lord Justice Carswell on an application for judicial review to quash a decision of the Queen's University of Belfast to terminate his employment following a probationary period.

Mr Nick Hanna, QC and Mr Neil Drennan for the university; Mr Declan Morgan, QC and Mr Jack Simpson for the applicant.
THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that before the university's statutes had been revised in 1988 there was a clear distinction between the procedures for termination of employment of a probationary lecturer and the dismissal of an established lecturer.
In the case of a probationary lecturer, pursuant to paragraph 10 of the procedure approved by the senate in October 1979, the board of curators would recommend that his appointment was terminated and under paragraph 10(1) the probationary lecturer would have a right of appeal to a committee appointed by the senate.
In the case of an established lecturer, pursuant to paragraph 10, the senate would have power to dismiss for good cause and under chapter XXIII the Visitor.

The new chapter XX set out a detailed code for the dismissal of academic staff for good cause and by reason of redundancy and it also set out a code for disciplinary procedures in respect of conduct falling short of constituting possible good cause for dismissal.
Leaving aside the question whether there was a distinction in point of strict law between "termination of appointment" and "dismissal" his Lordship considered that there was a difference, arising from considerations which were fair and reasonable, between deciding to terminate the employment of a probationer and deciding to dismiss an established member of staff. That difference had been recognised to some extent by industrial tribunals and by the Employment Appeal Tribunal.
That difference was particularly apposite in relation to the academic staff of a university. Where a lecturer had served a probationary period and had been confirmed in his appointment it was entirely fair and reasonable that he be entitled to know that he could not be dismissed from his position unless for good cause or redundancy.
However, there might be some cases in relation to a probationer lecturer where his conduct and/or skills did not meet the standards required by his senior colleagues and the board of curators would be entitled to form the opinion that he was not a suitable person to become a permanent member of the academic staff with the permanent security of tenure which he would enjoy although his conduct and/or skills were not such as to justify dismissal of a permanent lecturer under the standards laid down in chapter XX.

Change of superstore operator material

Mr Reg Weir, QC and Mr Stephen Shaw for Sainsbury's.
THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that a developer had applied for outline and full planning permission in respect of the site for the construction of a superstore and other buildings.
The department considered that the application came within article 31 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 and required the submission of a retail impact study. The study was based on the proposed superstore having a net floor space of 28,000 sq ft.
Since there was no identified operator at that time the consultants adopted a notional turnover based on floor space which reflected the average of a number of selected United Kingdom companies operating superstores.
Turnover was assessed at £530 a square foot a year at 1990 prices. The study then assessed the likely impact on other food retailers in the area of the development of a superstore of that size and with such turnover.
The department, having considered the study, did not require a public inquiry to be held under article 31 and granted full planning permission.
Subsequently an agreement was made between Sainsbury's and another developer who acquired the site that Sainsbury's would operate the superstore and two further applications were made for plan-

Change of superstore operator material

ning permission in respect of the site.
The department did not apply article 31 to either application, did not require the submission of any further retail impact study and granted planning permission in respect of both applications.
The applicants contended that the department failed to take a material consideration into account when it decided to grant permission without having regard to the increased retail impact of a superstore operated by Sainsbury's and which required the submission of a fresh retail impact study.
There was no challenge before the court to the finding of the judge that the applicants had established a prima facie case that Sainsbury's turnover per square foot might be materially above the figure adopted by the consultants.
The fact that Sainsbury's had the benefit of the original permission was a material consideration but that did not mean that it could be a material consideration that the operator at the time of the later applications was Sainsbury's which might well generate a much higher turnover and therefore have a much greater detrimental impact on shops in the centre of Coleraine that the unknown operator of the original permission.
His Lordship considered that in such circumstances it would be artificial and unrealistic for the planning authority to fail to take

into account as a material consideration the much greater impact on shopping in the town centre which would be caused by the much higher turnover generated by Sainsbury's operating the superstore than by a small Northern Ireland company operating it.
A planning authority should take account of the fact that the business skills and experience of Sainsbury's would cause a much greater retail impact and that was a material consideration for the planning authority to take into account under article 25(1).
Having taken that material consideration into account it might be reasonable, although his Lordship expressed no opinion on the point, for the planning authority to consider that it was outweighed by other considerations, such as that planning permission ran with the land and that Sainsbury's had the benefit of the earlier permission and might fall back on it, and that it was not a proper planning function to penalise, in effect, a large national company because it was more efficient and successful than a small local company.
But that did not alter the conclusion that the increased retail impact was a material consideration which had to be taken into account.
Lord Justice Nicholson and Mr Justice Kerr delivered concurring judgments.
Solicitors: Crown Solicitor; T. G. McAlpine; L. Estrange & Brett.

that it was made abundantly clear to the new lecturer that he was being appointed on probation, there was nothing unreasonable or unfair in the probation procedure under which the board of curators considered whether or not to confirm the probationer in his appointment.
The issue before the board of curators as the probationary period came to an end was not one of guilt or innocence in relation to some disciplinary complaint it was whether or not the probationer should be confirmed in his appointment.
In the light of those considerations, including the consideration that the position of a person on probation had been well established and recognised in academic and other spheres for many years, his Lordship considered that the purpose of Parliament and of the University Commissioners was to make provision for the dismissal of established members of the academic staff for redundancy and for good cause and it was not the intention to abolish the function of the board of curators in relation to deciding whether to confirm or terminate the appointment of a probationer and to abolish the probation procedure in relation to complaints which were capable of falling within the definition of "good cause" in Chapter XX.
The University Commissioners had not intended that the appointment of a probationer could only be terminated if he was guilty of conduct which would have been sufficiently serious to justify dismissal for good cause under Chapter XX and that his appointment could not be terminated where he had behaved in such a way as to call for an oral or written warning if he had been a permanent lecturer.
In the light of that decision it was unnecessary to decide whether or not the application gave rise to a question of public law and the applicant was entitled to apply for judicial review.
Lord Justice McDermott and Lord Justice Nicholson delivered concurring judgments.
Solicitors: L. Estrange & Brett; Cleaver Fulton & Rankin.

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Brokers

THE TIMES 1900

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Crest Packaging, Gibbs Mew, Hill Samuel UK Emerging, Howden Group, Jamin, MFI Furniture, Pri- or. Finals: Burnside Investments, Hunters Armley. Economics: US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills.

TOMORROW

Interims: Baring Emerging Europe Trust, Close Bros Venture, Hampton Trust, I&S Optimum Income Trust, KS Biomedix Holdings, Mondas. Finals: Chemex International, Eurotherm, Goldborough Healthcare, Kunick, Securicor, Vaux Group. Economics: UK November PSBR; US Federal Open Market Committee meeting.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Danisco, Murray Smaller Markets Trust, Zargo Holdings. Finals: Dawson Holdings, Freepages, Sperati, Tor Investment Trust. Economics: UK November retail sales; UK November unemployment; UK October average earnings, unit wage costs.

THURSDAY

Interims: Acatos & Hutchison, Asda, Jones & Shipman, Murray Split Capital Trust, NSM, Plannigan International Capital Trust, Stewart & Wight. Finals: Warner Estates. Economics: UK November provisional M4; UK November vehicle production; UK November major banking groups monthly statement; UK November building societies monthly figures; OECD economic outlook.

FRIDAY

Interims: Electric & General Investments, Forminster, Meconic. Finals: Kelsey Industries. Economics: UK final Q3 GDP, UK Q3 balance of payments, US final Q3 GDP; US November import/export price indexes.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK



Brokers split over Asda prospects

ASDA: An industry survey recently named the group as the fastest-growing food retailer in the sector, but the shares have been a dull market ahead of half-year figures due on Thursday. Brokers seem divided about prospects for the group, with UBS claiming that the discount to the rest of the market is too great, while NatWest Securities urges clients to take profits.

NatWest is forecasting pre-tax profits of £155 million, while UBS is expecting a figure of about £160 million. That compares with £138.3 million last time. Earnings are likely to be up by around 15 per cent, while shareholders should be rewarded with an 11 per cent increase in the payout to 0.80p a share.

Both are agreed that like-for-like sales will be up about 9 per cent, with margins flat at just under 5 per cent, ex-petrol sales, underpinned by growth in total sales of 11 per cent. In the meantime, the group will have had to contend with the apparent risks inherent within an increasingly cyclical non-food business. There will also be rising costs generated by new store openings.

MFI: The gradual revival of consumer confidence is expected to be fully reflected in half-year figures unveiled today, with pre-tax profits doubled to £40 million, although estimates range from £31.5 million to £42 million. Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, is forecasting £38 million but is happy to lift its forecast for the full year by £4 million, to £90 million, if the group achieves £40 million or more at the halfway stage. That compares with a final figure last year of £58.1 million.

The sharp recovery in the group's fortunes stems from a big increase in sales on the back of the growth being established in the housing market. Margins have also begun to improve, with Henderson looking for an improvement of between 1.5 per cent and 2 per cent as the cost of raw materials continues to fall. Meanwhile, the group is undergoing a change of image with almost half its portfolio of 80 stores already converted to the new HomeWorks format. Through its Howden



Archie Norman, chief executive of Asda, where earnings are likely to be up by 15 per cent

Joinery arm it has also successfully moved to take on the builders merchants with 20 depots already established.

SECURICOR: Brokers will be planning their hopes on a better second-half performance from the group, which unveils full-year figures tomorrow. During the first six months, pre-tax profits were just £100,000 ahead, at £47.6 million, struck after exceptional costs of £3.44 million. For the full year, Henderson Crosthwaite is looking for a final figure of £106 million (1994

million last time). Earnings are likely to have grown from 10.7p to 11.5p, with a small rise in the payout, from 1.3p to 1.5p.

Once again the biggest contribution to profits will come from its 40 per cent stake in Cellnet, the mobile-phone operator it owns jointly with BT. Brokers are expecting a modest improvement. On the other hand, the cash transit business has been giving cause for concern. Competition has been intensive, resulting in margin pressure and contract losses. Market conditions are thought to have

stabilised as the group entered the second half. The Cross Keys insurance division had a strong first half but this is unlikely to have been carried through to the second six months. The Securicor Service Provider will have been hit by a bad-debt provision totalling £4 million. This is unlikely to have been repeated in the second half. In fact, brokers are hoping that some of that provision will be ploughed back.

EUROTHERM: The strong pound is likely to take some of the gloss off an otherwise impressive

performance when the group unveils full-year figures tomorrow. At the pre-tax level profits are likely to be up around 11 per cent, at £38 million, compared with £34.1 million last time. But earnings are likely to have grown at a more sedate pace with NatWest Securities looking for a 9 per cent improvement, to 27.4p a share.

Eurotherm has struggled to accelerate earnings growth, with margins remaining under pressure. The pound's gains against its major rivals will only have served to exacerbate the situation. Second-half trading has, at best, been mixed. The domestic market remains strong but the downturn in France has deepened, while in the US demand is flat. With margins remaining under pressure, the group will be continually forced to come up with new product ranges. Even so, shareholders can expect a generous increase in the dividend, with almost 9p forecast, compared with 7.5p last time.

VAUX: Half-year figures from the North East brewer tomorrow are expected to paint a mixed picture. A strong performance from its hotel and managed pubs chains are likely to be held back by difficult trading conditions in tenanted pubs and the nursing homes. Brokers are predicting a modest increase in pre-tax profits of £3 million, to £35 million, 9 per cent up on the previous year. Costs savings should benefit the group's brewing operations with the benefits of last year's restructuring also starting to come through. But tenanted pubs will have endured difficult trading, with the performance also reflecting the transfer of some pubs over to managed.

The managed pubs arm and the Swallow hotel chain should produce some solid growth in excess of 20 per cent as business picks up and the division reaps the benefit of recent investment. Swallow is thought to be outperforming the hotel industry generally. Brokers will also be on the lookout for news of the disposal of its nursing homes operation. The dividend is expected to grow by 4 per cent, to 10.6p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

PSBR tipped to hit £2.7bn

For the week before Christmas, there is a considerable batch of British statistics to absorb and interest rate meetings in Germany and America.

In Britain, the first key figure is the public sector borrowing requirement for November, published tomorrow. According to the market consensus compiled by MMS International, the economic analyst, there is expected to be a PSBR of £2.7 billion compared with the huge £4.4 billion repayment in October, a bumper month for corporation tax receipts. On Wednesday, retail sales figures for November will be looked at with interest given recent surveys suggesting that activity on the high street has lost some momentum. The City is expecting a rise in sales of 0.5 per cent in the month, giving year-on-year growth of 3.4 per cent. This compares with a rise of 0.4 per cent in October, which gave annual growth of 4.1 per cent.

On Thursday, November M4 broad money supply is expected to have risen 0.7 per cent in the month. This would leave its year-on-year growth rate at 10.0 per cent compared with 10.3 per cent in October. M4 lending by banks and building societies is expected to have eased a little from October's high figure, while net mortgage commitments by building society lenders are expected to have kept pace with October's performance. On Friday, there are final figures for third-quarter gross domestic product, expected to be unrevised with growth in the quarter of 0.8 per cent and year-on-year growth of 2.4 per cent.

The Federal Open Market Committee meets in Washington tomorrow to discuss interest rates but there is no expectation of a rate rise. The Bundesbank's council meeting convenes on Thursday. There is no speculation of rate changes but the bank will set next year's target for M3 money supply, expected to be unchanged at 4 per cent to 7 per cent.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Jarvis Hotels, MFI, TLO, Meggit; Sell Body Shop International, The Sunday Telegraph, Bay Regalian Properties, Roskops, Deltron Electronics; Sell CIA; Avoid RJR Mining, Independent on Sunday, Bay Ocean Group, Vardon, Astec; BSR; Avoid Kenwood; Sell Cadbury Schweppes. The Mail On Sunday: Buy Wembley, Hanson, Mulberry; Sell Lasso.

Second chance for ostrich investors

BY A CORRESPONDENT

INVESTORS who lost millions of pounds with the collapse of the Ostrich Farming Corporation are being offered a chance to acquire shares in a successor company in the hope of recovering at least some of their original investment.

Around 2,700 people put nearly £22 million into OFC, enticed by promises of annual returns in excess of 50 per cent. Those people now have the chance to recoup their losses by signing up with a new company called Belatruiche (UK) Plc, according to a prospectus outlining the venture. In return for their ostriches - currently being kept on farms in Belgium - and a cash outlay, the investors will have a share in the company. Investors must subscribe a minimum of 13 per cent of their original investment.

The prospectus states that investors are being offered the opportunity to invest in a company with a holding in an existing ostrich farm. Eddy Nachtergaele, a Belgian farmer who is a director of the Belgian base of Belatruiche, supplied the ostriches to OFC and they are still kept on his farms.

The company's board includes three of the original OFC investors, who are also committee members of the Ostrich Owners Protection Group. The share option must raise at least £1.5 million by January 10 for the rescue bid to go ahead. If the capital is not raised, Mr Nachtergaele will repossess the existing birds to recover fees he has incurred.

In documents filed in the High Court earlier this year, the Department of Trade and Industry alleged that directors of OFC syphoned off investors' money through disadvantageous contracts with suppliers.

OFC initially purchased ostriches direct from Mr Nachtergaele's Zooparc Arno-Safari company. Later, birds were purchased at much higher prices from Wall Street LLC and Wallstreet Corporation (UK), which in turn acquired the ostriches from Zooparc, the DTI alleged.

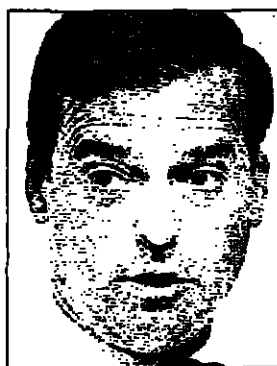
Amex in takeover frame after merger talks fail

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN EXPRESS has been left looking vulnerable to takeover or merger offers after it was disclosed that merger talks with Citicorp collapsed last week.

Discussions with Citicorp were initiated by Harvey Golub, the Amex chairman, who has held talks with John Reed, chairman of Citicorp, since November. The talks foundered on the high price of Amex, estimated to be at least \$25 billion, and the likelihood that Citicorp would have to give up its affiliation with the Visa and Mastercard credit card groups. There was also disagreement over what role Mr Golub would play in the combined group.

Amex said that it was not currently discussing the sale



Reed: discussions collapsed

of all or part of the company with anyone. If a deal had been agreed it would have far outstripped the \$11.3 billion merger of Chase Manhattan and Chemical Bank - the largest bank merger in America to date.

The aborted talks show the

pressure that US banks are under in the current wave of consolidation. So far Citicorp has stayed out of the merger and acquisition frenzy, concentrating on building its business organically.

Amex, however, has been forced to construct a new strategy because of competition from credit card groups. It has tried hard, but largely failed, to persuade US banks to issue its charge cards, so a closer link with a big banking institution such as Citicorp became the next step. Amex's enthusiasm to find a banking partner, however, emphasises its vulnerability and its concern that it is losing business.

Because of its size, there are few institutions that would be able to bid for it. Amex could, however, enter into merger talks with other leading banks.

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EMU fairy-tale envisions an unhappy ending in 2003

Janet Bush examines a new paper that outlines the pitfalls of economic and monetary union

DEEP-SEATED concerns about monetary union in the financial community, particularly the City of London, have prompted a new paper entitled *The Crash of 2003: An EMU Fairy Tale*.

The paper was written by David Lascelles, co-founder of the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation, after a series of round tables and workshops with financial practitioners. Many participants, including officials from the Treasury and the Bank of England, were worried that a single currency is being pursued for political reasons at the cost of Europe's eventual economic health.

Described as a "scenario, not a forecast", the paper charts an all too believable course from the

formation of a single currency in 1999 by seven countries, boasting only flimsy economic convergence, to its break up in 2003. What is left, Mr Lascelles envisions, is an EMU2 of only Germany, the Benelux countries and Austria — effectively an expanded German mark bloc as already existed in 1996.

Published to coincide with the Dublin summit, at which European leaders signed up to a compromise version of Germany's stability pact proposal, the paper concludes, in the words of Christopher Golden, head of fixed income research at Nomura International, in his foreword: "EMU is not intrinsically fatally flawed, merely premature — a project

driven by political imperatives, but which ignored practical problems to the point of failure."

Mr Lascelles suggests that EMU goes ahead as planned on January 1, 1999, with Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg and The Netherlands in the first wave. The single currency starts despite the fact that none has met the Maastricht convergence criteria. Italy and Spain follow in a second wave a year later. The UK opts out.

So EMU is launched. The Euro-

pean Central Bank, keen to establish its credibility, pursues a tough monetary line. Courtesy of buoyant economic conditions across the globe, EMU gets off to a good start, although, Mr Lascelles notes, the required investment in new systems and technology wipes out six years of cost savings.

In 2000, however, world growth starts to slacken and Wall Street's heavily bought stock market suffers a big setback which sends shock waves through Europe.

EMU countries, burdened by high costs and unemployment, are particularly vulnerable.

In 2001 growth falls sharply, placing additional burdens on social security budgets and pushing the weaker EMU countries further outside the convergence criteria, risking fines under the stability pact. The stability pact rules mean that governments have to cut spending at a time when growth is slowing, so creating a downward spiral with no hope of bailing out.

In 2002 pressures are mounting in France, where Jacques Chirac faces a presidential election in June. EMU is becoming deeply unpopular and M Chirac tries to win round voters by proposing, inter alia, to abolish the stability pact and rewrite the mandate of the ECB to emphasise its duty to promote growth (US Federal Reserve style). Germany refuses and confidence in the euro slumps.

In 2003 Brussels launches a last-ditch attempt to save EMU by proposing a federal Treasury to take over the debts of EMU countries. To work, however, the Treasury would need the power to raise taxes and control the spending of member states. Germany refuses to back the plan. France

has no choice but to leave EMU, followed by Italy, Spain and Ireland. The franc plunges 15 per cent and the Government is forced to accept a devaluation.

Britain cannot escape from the ravages of Europe-wide recession and the crisis of confidence which greets the end of the single currency dream. But it also feels vindicated in its decision not to join, having enjoyed comparatively healthier growth and employment as well as a bonanza for the City from huge growth in the offshore euro-euro market in the intervening years.

For further details, contact the Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation. Tel: 0171-993 0173.

Pay awards remain on the decline in manufacturing

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

PAY awards in manufacturing industry continue to fall back. The Confederation of British Industry says today in evidence which suggests a continuation of at least one potential inflationary pressure.

The CBI's latest pay figures, released before the Government's own earnings data later this week, will please ministers hoping to avoid another increase in interest rates.

Official unemployment figures, also due this week, are expected to show a further fall in seasonally adjusted unemployment — possibly to below the two million threshold.

Before that, the CBI today

says that pay awards in manufacturing are continuing to decline, while settlements in the service sector remain broadly stable.

The latest CBI Pay Databank — a compilation of pay settlements recorded by CBI members — shows that pay awards in manufacturing provisionally averaged 2.9 per cent for the three months ending in October, compared with 3.3 per cent in the three months to July and 3.6 per cent for the same period a year ago. It brings the settlement figure to its lowest level for almost two years.

While the CBI's figures are

lower than independent pay analysts' records of wage settlements throughout the economy — which are running at about 4 per cent — they do indicate the strong price pressures still bearing down on the manufacturing sector.

More than a third of manufacturers in the CBI study said that their inability to increase prices in very tough competitive markets was a "major constraint" on pay awards. However, 25 per cent cited low profits as the principle factor, with slightly fewer pointing to the low rise in living costs and low order books. Both these factors have risen in importance since the CBI's last Databank survey three months ago.

In the service sector, which independent analysts suggest is less well covered in the CBI's settlement figures, the Confederation says that wage awards are continuing at a stable level, with little sign of pay volatility since the start of the year. In the three months to October, service sector pay awards provisionally averaged 3.5 per cent, barely down from the 3.6 per cent for the three months to July.

But current service sector pay levels are still higher than they were a year ago, when average deals were running at 2.9 per cent for the three months to October 1995.

The CBI's figures also confirm the trend in the official data on productivity, with productivity growth in CBI manufacturing companies falling back from 4.6 per cent in the second quarter of this year to 4.3 per cent now. But manufacturers still expect continuing strong productivity growth in the year ahead, at a rate of 5.3 per cent.

Venables to hear date of move for boardroom ban

By Jason Nisse

TERRY VENABLES, former coach of the England football team, will today learn when he is to face a move to have him barred as a director of UK companies.

A High Court hearing will set a date for the disqualification hearings, put back from summer after the Football Association told the court that the proceedings could interfere with Mr Venables's responsibilities in the Euro 96 championships.

Mr Venables, who recently became chairman of Portsmouth, the Nationwide League first division team, faces proceedings by the Department of Trade and Industry over his running of four companies, Tottenham Hotspur, Tottenham Hotspur Football and Athletic Club, its subsidiary, which runs the Premiership team; Scribes West, which owns a nightclub in Kensington; and Edennote, Mr Venables's investment company.

The DTI is to put forward 19 charges of "undisputed" against the former England and Spurs manager. They include 11 counts that the DTI passed to the Serious Fraud Office to investigate. The SFO decided that there were insufficient grounds for prosecution.

One issue is Mr Venables's relationship with Eddie Ashby, the former bankrupt installed as general manager of Spurs when Mr Venables was chief executive.

Earlier this year, Mr

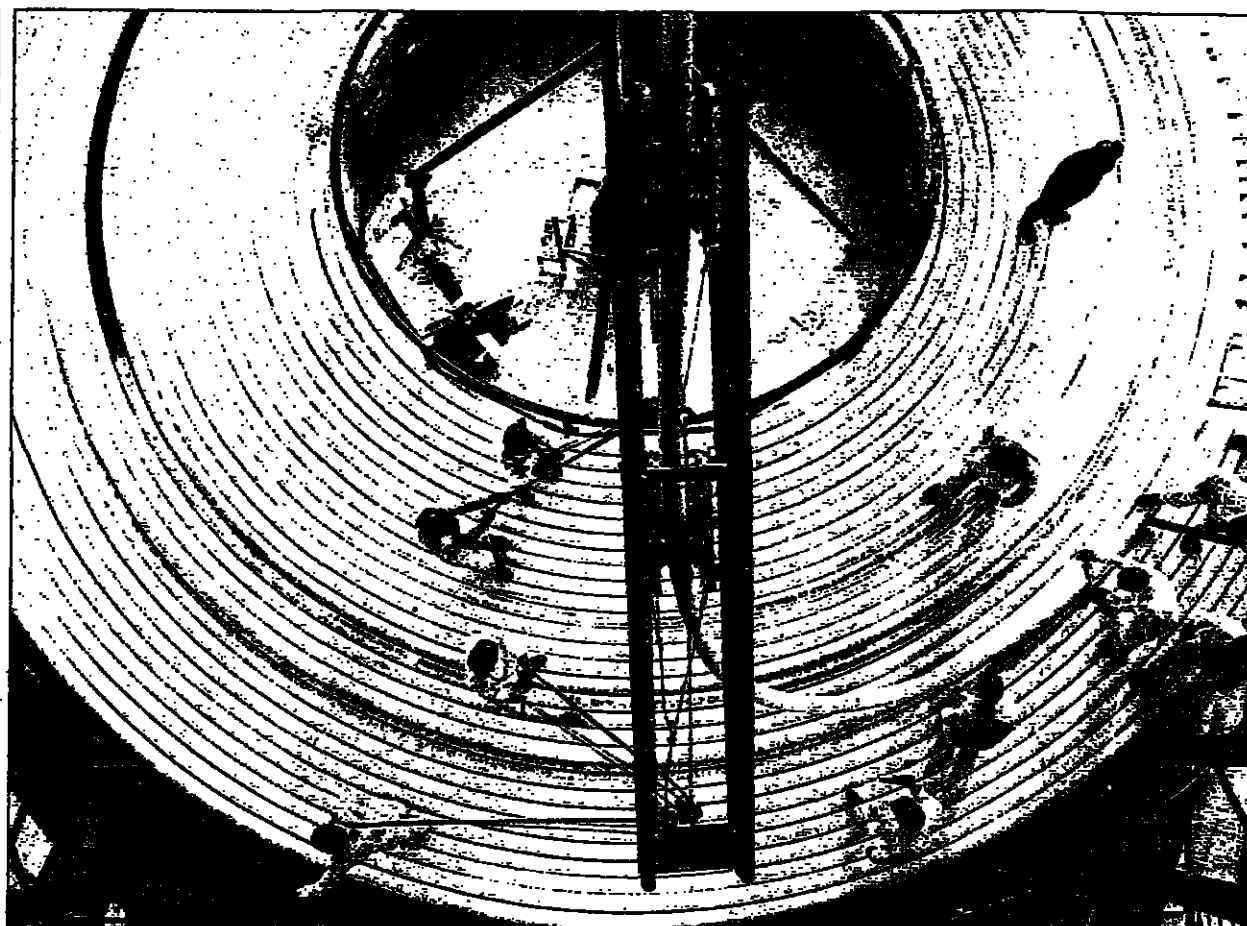
Ashby was disqualified from being a director for nine years and next year he is to face accusations that he acted as a director of the two Spurs companies and Scribes West while banned.

Before Euro 96, Mr Venables said that he would resign as coach of the England team because of the various legal battles ahead of him. These include a long-running libel fight with Alan Sugar, chairman of Tottenham Hotspur.

The latest part of that was a ruling two months ago that Mr Venables's autobiography should be pulped because of libellous comments about Mr Sugar that led to Mr Sugar receiving £100,001 in damages.



Venables: DTI battle



UNDERSEA cable for the mainland link to the Isle of Wight being loaded on a ship at the BICC super-tension cable facility on the Thames at Erith in Kent. The international cables and

construction group is to invest £25 million in expanding its extra high-voltage cable production facility at Erith. The investment will enable it to manufacture submarine cables at con-

tinuous lengths of 100 kilometres or more for which there is a growing market. It involves a factory extension, new plant and facilities to transfer cable from the factory to the Thames.

Pemberstone facing 'coup'

By Jason Nisse

AN accountant from Gloucestershire will today deliver a bloody nose to Pemberstone, the quoted property company, over its plans to buy out 34 property business expansion schemes that it manages.

At a shareholders' meeting in Birmingham, Bruce Lawson, who runs an accounting firm in Tenbury Wells, will use proxies from shareholders in Roman Rentals, which operates 34 BES schemes, to vote the chairman, Milton Psyllides, a partner at Eversheds, the legal firm, off the board.

Mr Lawson, who has won support from shareholders, including David Arculus, managing director of Emap, and Rupert Faine Walker, a City merchant banker at Samuel Montagu, will then call an extraordinary meeting at which he will oust another of Roman's directors, Andrew Bruckland, who is managing director of Pemberstone, which manages Roman Rentals through a subsidiary, Industries Management. Mr Lawson will then start the process of selling the business to property investors.

The battle started in September when Pemberstone made an offer to buy the remaining 34 Roman Rental companies, which were started as BES schemes to invest in starter homes in Flint, North Wales. Each company owns two starter homes valued in 1991 at £35,000 each. Pemberstone's offer was worth just £25,000 a home and it was also charging a 1.75 per cent commission for the offer. Mr Lawson contacted shareholders to reject the deal, which was dropped by Pemberstone in October.

Mr Psyllides said that he would then consult shareholders as to how to go forward, but none of his actions has satisfied Mr Lawson. Since then Mr Lawson has been contacted by Neil Clerk, the stockbroker, which has indicated it would offer £29,000 a home for Roman Rentals. Mr Lawson has now received proxies from 176 of the 304 shareholders in Roman Rentals and another shareholder, David Haggett, who is the senior partner of Eversheds in Birmingham has agreed to abstain.

Aerodata offer

Aerodata, the Australian provider of geophysical data for oil exploration, is to make a mandatory cash offer for Scott Pickford, the UK geoscience and engineering concern.

The offer, agreed at the weekend, will value each Scott Pickford share at 48p and the company at £6 million. The shares ended at 44p on Friday. A minority of Scott Pickford directors do not intend to recommend the offer.

The mandatory offer arises from a share exchange agreed between the two companies.

Banks to get result of strike ballots

By Our Business Staff

HIGH STREET banks will hear this week whether they face industrial action by staff in disputes over Christmas Eve and New Year working.

The Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu) is balloting members in Scotland and at NatWest and Lloyds TSB in two separate disputes which could lead to strikes.

Staff at NatWest and Lloyds TSB are unhappy at having to work on the afternoon of Christmas Eve and are being asked if they want to walk out from noon. The union is also balloting its 16,000 members in Scotland on whether to strike on January 2 in protest

at plans by the banks to scrap the traditional Scottish bank holiday on January 2 and switch it to a later date.

Sandy Boyle, Bifu's deputy general secretary, said: "There is no business case for opening branches and head office departments on January 2."

A union spokesman said of the two disputes: "Employers are nibbling away at our members' leisure time and they are ignoring the family nature of both Christmas and New Year."

The Scottish ballot result will be announced today and the NatWest Lloyds-TSB result tomorrow.

Japan agrees insurance deal with US

JAPAN and America have reached final agreement on a deal to open up Japan's \$400 billion insurance market to greater international competition. It was announced yesterday.

The deal will deregulate Japan's primary life, property and casualty insurance markets, in which foreign firms have a negligible share. It also delays the entry of Japan's major insurance groups into some sectors of the so-called "third market", in which foreign companies have gained a foothold. This sector includes specialty coverage such as cancer, travel and accident insurance.

Northern bid battle enters final round

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

NORTHERN ELECTRIC and CE Electric, its hostile bidder, will today begin the final round of their fierce takeover battle. The fight, which is expected to be one of the closest-run bids for a regional electricity company, has until Friday lunchtime before the £782 million offer, or 650p an ordinary share, closes.

Both companies spent the weekend courting institutions and small shareholders. With a 17 per cent stake, small shareholders are poised to play an influential role.

Prudential, Britain's largest investment group and Northern's largest shareholder

with an 11.5 per cent stake, has backed Northern's argument that CE Electric's bid undervalues the company. It has also gained the public support of Foreign & Colonial and the anonymous support of at least one other large institution.

CE Electric, the US group led by CalEnergy, has control of more than one third of Northern after it bought more than 29 per cent of shares in the market and received acceptances for more than 4 per cent. The bidder is not obliged to release further details of acceptances but is likely to do so if it gains significant take-up before Friday.

Stanhope cash

Stanhope Telecommunications, a distributor of the Personal Number Company's 07000 telephone numbers, is raising £850,000 of venture capital from CLE Development Capital and Lloyds Bank. Stanhope, one of the Personal Number Company's five regional associate dealers, has connected more than 2,000 personal numbers. It expects changes to London telephone numbers outlined by OfTel, the regulator, to increase business.

Jarvis deal

Jarvis Hotels, which floated in June, will today announce the £13.5 million purchase of the Carnarvon Hotel in west London. The hotel, on the North Circular Road, has 176 bedrooms and conference and banqueting facilities.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 36

QUISQUOUS

(c) Perplexing or puzzling. A jocular English word of cod Latin. "How extremely quisquous," you observe, truthfully, as you read your *Word Shadow's* long trial article.

WEDBEDRIP

(a) An agreement under which a feudal lord's tenant was bound to provide him, on request, with a day's respite from the tenant's land. Instead of admitting that you will spend the weekend (as usual, boringly) gardening, you could try impressing your colleagues with your linguistic savoir dire on Friday by saying that you have to carry out wedbedrip for your wife.

ALPHAMERIC

(b) Made up of both letters and numbers. A portmanteau word made by packing together alphabetical and numerical. The term is encountered sooner or later by all who use personal computers. "During this term James has made giant strides forward in his handwriting, which is becoming almost alphameric."

TABARD

(a) A medieval sleeveless tunic or jacket. Today worn only by heralds and pursuivants when they change out of their grey suits. It could be revived as an archaism for a T-shirt. "Do you have any Iron Maiden tabards for my son?"

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1... Qx7f2 Rxd7 Ng3+13 h3g3 Rhb and mate is inevitable

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6580 (+0.0162)
German mark 2.5641 (+0.0349)
Exchange index 93.2 (+1.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2738.3 (-2.4)
FTSE 100 3972.4 (+9.4)
New York Dow Jones 6304.87 (-77.08)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 20341.39 (+64.69)



Following the DIVIDEND DECLARATION by Ford Motor Company (U.S.) on 10 October, 1996 NOTICE is now given that the following DISTRIBUTION will become payable on or after 16 December, 1996.

Gross Distribution per unit	1.92500 Cents
Less 15% USA Withholding Tax	0.28875 Cents
	1.63625 Cents
Converted at \$1.68	\$0.00973958

Claims should be lodged with the DEPOSITARY: National Westminster Bank PLC, Basement, Juno Court, 24 Prescott Street, London E1 8BB on special forms obtainable from that office.

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should make payment of the dividend in the appropriate square on the reverse of the certificate.

All other claimants must complete the special form and present this at the above address together with the certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

Dated 16 December, 1996

New year's resolution: learn from the lessons of the 1980s

As investors in the UK gilt market formulate their strategy for next year, the key question is whether the present phase of rapid growth will result in an overheating of the economy during 1997, leading to higher inflation in 1998 and beyond. When we recently posed this question in the Goldman Sachs "Budget special", Anatole Kaletsky, economics editor of *The Times*, argued that there is only one reasonable answer to this question: you must be joking.

But this is no joking matter. Almost everyone is agreed that the economy will grow significantly faster than its long-term trend of 2.25 per cent in 1997, fuelled by a rapid increase in consumer spending. The Treasury is close to the consensus forecast in predicting GDP growth of 3.5 per cent and an increase in consumer spending of 4.25 per cent next year.

The risks on consumer spending seem on the side of higher rather than lower growth. Increases in real take-home pay should be maintained at around a 3 per cent annualised rate over the next 12 to 18 months as average earnings growth edges up in response to a tightening labour market. Income tax is cut, and inflation falls temporarily on the back of the stronger exchange rate.

Meanwhile, the pressures on the savings rate are firmly downward. Unemployment is falling sharply, the housing market is clearly recovering,

and households are set to receive a continuous stream of building society windfalls equivalent to 3 per cent of personal disposable income next year. It is little wonder that consumer confidence has recovered to levels last seen in mid-1988, a time when consumer spending was growing in excess of 6 per cent in real terms.

Putting aside these upside risks to growth for a moment, the outlook for inflation will depend ultimately on the size of the output gap, that is the difference between the current level of GDP and the level of GDP which would be attained at "normal" levels of capacity utilisation and unemployment. Because potential output is unobservable, the output gap is notoriously difficult to measure.

According to the Treasury, the output gap in the economy is between zero and 3 per cent; its central estimate is 1.5 per cent. If the Treasury is right then the economy should be able to grow by around 3.5 per cent next year without triggering higher inflation, although interest rates would still need to be high enough to get the economy to slow to around a trend rate of growth in 1998.

GILT-EDGED

If the output gap is smaller than this, there is a real risk that the economy will be unable to support such rapid growth next year without overheating. Developments in the labour market give pause for thought. Unemployment has fallen to 7.2 per cent of the workforce and vacancies have risen 40 per cent above their stable long-term trend, conditions last seen in 1988 when the economy was clearly operating above potential.

The tightening observed in the labour market begs the question, has growth in the economy been stronger than recorded? One of the mistakes made by policymakers in the mid-1980s was to base policy decisions on GDP data which we now know were severely understated. The Office for National Statistics has found that during the upswing phase of the economic cycle, initial estimates of GDP have understated the annual growth of the economy by 0.8 per cent on average compared with data

available three years later. If similar revisions are made to the preliminary estimates of GDP published in each quarter for the past three years, the level of GDP at the end of 1996 will eventually be shown to be around 3 per cent higher than currently estimated. On even the most optimistic projections, this means that the output gap could already have been eliminated.

At the very least these considerations suggest that the authorities should be erring on the side of caution when setting monetary policy, particularly since underlying inflation has remained persistently above the Government's target. The long lags between interest rate changes and their impact on inflation mean that monetary policy decisions need to be taken well in advance to keep inflation under wraps. That was the mistake made in the 1980s. Monetary policy was only tightened in earnest from mid-1988, by which time inflation was already on a firmly rising path. Had action been taken earlier, many of the excesses of the late 1980s could have been avoided. Another lesson to be learnt from the

1980s is that it is a mistake to ignore warning signals from a number of reliable leading indicators of inflation. With hindsight, there were ample warning signals during 1986 and especially 1987 of the need for a tightening in monetary policy. Now, as then, most forward indicators of inflation, such as monetary growth, house prices, consumer confidence and labour market conditions, point to the risk of a sustained rise in inflation in 12-18 months' time. None of these indicators in isolation would necessarily give much cause for concern. Taken together, though, the alarm bells should be ringing loudly in the corridors of the Treasury and the Bank of England.

If the authorities fail to act promptly to head off these incipient inflation pressures, they risk a mini re-run of the boom-bust cycle of the late 1980s and early 1990s. Problems with inflation are unlikely to be seen in 1997, not least because of the dampening effect from the 12 per cent rise in the exchange rate this year. However, base rates are likely to have to rise to around 7½ per cent over the next six to nine months to hold down inflation in 1998 and beyond. In this rising base rate environment of the next few months gilts are likely to deliver poor returns both in absolute terms and relative to overseas bond markets.

DAVID WALTON
Goldman Sachs

Looking to business for prosperity



Bob Bauman, BAe chairman, a member of the commission

Philip Bassett on a report seen as central to future wealth creation

From business, the message is clear: "Our culture has always had certain anti-commercial elements, but in recent times these seem to have declined, now it is more generally accepted that the material fortunes of us all, the school-leaver and the artist as much as the employee and shareholder, depend on the success of British business."

The central importance of business to the economy, and to British society more broadly, underlies an important new examination of the role of business in the UK to be launched in the new year. Tony Blair will unveil a mutual attempt by Labour and business to find a new relationship in advance of the general election, with the support of the Confederation of British Industry and the Institute of Directors. Adair Turner, of the CBI, and Tim Melville-Ross, of the IoD, will be on the platform, along with a clutch of senior business figures, for the launch of the long-awaited report from the Commission on Public Policy and British Business. This is a study by business leaders of the role of business

in modern Britain which, as the opening quotation from its yet-unpublished report shows, is in no doubt about the centrality of business to life in the UK.

The commission — originally a Labour idea but carried out with scrupulous independence by the Institute for Public Policy Research, a centre-left think-tank with links to Mr Blair — already carries a weight of expectation.

The field in which the commission is operating is already crowded: three White Papers from the Government with work on the fourth already under way, two recent business statements from Labour, the extensive Tomorrow's Company programme from the Royal Society of Arts, hearings and analyses from the Commons' all-party Trade and Industry Select Committee, Cadbury, Greenbury, Hampel, and so on. The distinctiveness of the commission's forthcoming re-

port, though, lies in its links to New Labour. Although the commission strives to ensure its work has been its own, the Commission on Public Policy and British Business will inevitably be seen as Labour and business forging a pre-election link. In fact, at least some members of the commission, which has been headed with scrupulous political neutrality by Professor George Bain, principal of the London Business School, have been surprised that the Labour leader's team has been content with interest in its work, rather than any attempt to influence it, believing that its value lies precisely in its independence.

As a result, the commission's report is, if anything, less closely linked to Labour than was the Social Justice Commission, which was closely linked to John Smith, the late Labour leader. That is not to say, though, that the Blair camp does not see it as significant. Close advisers to Mr Blair — whose policy head, David Milliband, is a former IPPR alumnus and was the Social Justice Commission's secretary — believe that its findings, and especially the unanimity of views from business that they encompass, will be vital in setting out the central importance to Labour of wealth creation, just as the Social Justice Commission mapped out new proposals for wealth distribution. Guided by Gerald Holtham, the former City economist who is the IPPR's director, and its secretary, Simon Milner, on secondment from the LSE, the commission has found common ground and agreement on a range of sometimes highly contentious issues, especially for business, including the social chapter and the minimum wage.

The commission is very far from some kind of pro-Blair line-up. While it includes Labour luminaries such as the Labour peer Lord Hollick, its business base is widespread and rigorous, and includes George Simpson, managing director at GEC, Bob Bauman, chairman of British Aerospace, Sir Christopher Harding from Legal & General, and David Sainsbury, chairman of the supermarket group.

The commission's report will include an analysis of Britain's competitiveness problems, and policy recommendations aimed at righting them. Labour is likely to find some of its proposals difficult, including the suggestions on corporate taxation, reported by *The Times* today. Others, including its endorsement of a minimum wage, will be considered problematic in some sectors.

But few will disagree with its central aim — what its report will call its "vision of a more prosperous Britain". It is expected to argue that while this vision is within Britain's grasp, achieving it will require a reversal of the UK's "tendency to underperform". It is likely to insist that while Britain's underperformance is relative, and that the UK as a nation is now richer than it has ever been, it will show that for most of the last century

Britain has slid down the league tables of national competitiveness, and that over a long period most of the UK's competitors have been outperforming it.

It is set to accept the argument, closely associated with Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, and his competitiveness initiatives — indeed, the commission held talks with his Cabinet Office Competitiveness Unit — that Britain has a long tail of underperforming firms, which drags down overall business performance.

It is likely to argue that Britain has failed to adopt best business practice, has underinvested in innovation, research and physical capital, and in failing to mobilise people's potential properly — especially in education and training, and crucially in respect of long-term unemployment — the UK has created for itself an economic drag anchor on its prosperity.

The commission is expected to take aim at the Government, too, arguing that British companies have been hindered for decades by the instability and uncertainty of the UK economic environment — with macroeconomic instability, exacerbated by government policy errors, the most damaging of all, but in areas such as taxation, transport and investment in science, government has "let business down".

Its expected criticisms of government, though, will be studiously non-party-political, not seeking to blame either Conservative or Labour administrations. It is likely to suggest that the Conservatives' 1980s programme of market liberalisation was necessary, though it may well be sceptical that all the high social costs associated with such changes were inevitable.

The commission is also expected to say the central problems for Britain are no longer those of the 1980s, including overregulated labour, product and financial markets, but that the UK must now move beyond the confines of deregulation and both diagnose and deal with the most immediate impediments to higher economic growth.

Business leaders on the commission are expected to accept unanimously, no doubt to the irritation of Conservative ministers, that the social chapter and Labour's plans for national minimum wage are unlikely to wreck the damage to British industry that the Government has claimed.

They are likely to propose legislative changes to reform Britain's corporate governance, adopting many of the arguments of the proponents of stakeholderism — including a move towards two-tier company structures by suggesting the adoption of a system of voting and non-voting shares. They will talk of a universal right to employee consultation, though they will hold back from a fully regulatory approach to company takeovers.

Like the political parties, business is now bracing itself for the election campaign, and its outcome, and the commission's forthcoming report will be a key part of that political-business argument.

Promoting Prosperity, Commission on Public Policy and British Business; IPPR, London; to be published on January 21; £8.99.

Even newer testament

The Greatest Story Ever Told. Radio 4, 7.45pm.

As this story of Jesus, from Annunciation to Ascension, is performed by the National Theatre of Brent, you know what to expect. You won't be disappointed. Desmond Oliver Dingle (aka Patrick Barlow) and Wallace (aka Jim Broadbent) play all the parts, disputatiously sharing the role of Jesus. The New Testament has undergone some subtle changes: "Better be on my way — no peace for the wicked, ha ha ha" says (I think) Broadbent's Jesus. Synonymously, Phil's wife is called "Gloria", "the good" diseases are identified as the bends. As written (by Barlow, Broadbent and Martin Duncan) and as acted, this is an amalgam of *Pythons' Life of Brian*, the Goons, Morecambe and Wise and a York Mystery play performed by village idiots.

Dear Diary. Radio 4, 10.00am.

These entries from Fraser Harrison's published diary are not as inconsequential as they sound at first. They accurately define the sweet and sour nature of parents' relationships with their children. The wisdom can often be surreal. "When I was in Mum's tummy," said Tilly, sister of Jack and the first-born, "I hugged Jack's egg and kept it warm." Jack believed old people were got rid of in nursing homes by being shot. And when he reached the (to him) advanced age of five, he told his Dad: "You'll be dead soon, now that I'm five." And, sister, now it's your turn to die, complement their father's memories with their memories of him.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

7.00am Chris Evans, includes Newsbeat and a Traffic Update with Tina Richie 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Lafferty 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session, with Jo Wiley and Steve Lamacq 9.00 John Peel's Classic Radio One Session 10.00 Mark Radcliffe, live from Manchester 12.00 Claire Sturgess, includes at 12.15am The Net 4.00 Dave Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.00 Kenny Rogers 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Dingle 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Malcolm Laycock with David Saxon 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00 Maddy on Monday, Michael Heath (7/8) 10.30 The Jamieson 12.05am Steve Macken 3.00 Alan Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl at 5.45 Wake Up to money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme incl at 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.55 The Magazine, with Diane Medel, incl at 10.35 News from Europe 12.00 Midday with Blair, incl at 12.35pm Moneycheck 2.05 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Nationwide, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News 6.00 News from Europe 7.00 Sports Bulletin 7.30 Sportsweek 8.05 The Monday Match, Derby County v Everton 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Antiques 10.00 The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Phil Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Philip Hodson 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Sports Zone 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Mike Dixon

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour 5.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 On the Shelf 7.30 The Village Chart Show 8.10 World of Faith 8.15 Pop on the Line 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Anything Goes 9.45 Sport 10.30 BBC English 10.45 On the Shelf 11.20 Omnibus 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Andy Kershaw 2.05 Outlook 2.30 John Peel 3.05 Sport 3.15 The Learning World 3.30 Omnibus 4.15 World Today 4.30 BBC English 4.45 Britain Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sport 6.30 Quiz, Uniquely 7.00 Outlook 7.35 Words of Faith 7.30 Multitrack 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Sound Business 9.45 The Brain 10.30 World Today 10.45 Sport 11.10 Take Five 11.15 Record News 11.30 Multitrack 12.30am Global Concerns 12.45 Britain Today 1.30 Outlook 1.55 Words of Faith 2.30 Omnibus 3.15 Sport 3.30 Meridian Features 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Concerto, J S Bach (Close of Amour Concerto, BWV 1053a) 3.00 James Crichton 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Sonata, Mozart (Duo Sonata for Cello and Bassoon, K 262) 7.00 Celebrity Chat 8.00 Evening Concert, Morsogorsky (A Night on the Bare Mountain), Ireland (The Overlanders Suite), Vaughan Williams (Sinfonia Antica) 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jon's Breakfast Experience 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Home 7.00 Paul Coyne (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Randal Lee Ross

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, includes: Choral Evensong (No 2); Baroque (A Hebridean Symphony); Bach (Trio Sonata in D minor, BWV577); Mozart (No 10 to the piano, K 475); KGOs; Couperin (Offertoire sur les Grands Jeux, Messe a l'usage des Paroisses); Couperin (Symphony No 1) 9.00 Morning Collection, includes: Smetana (Overture: Polka Slovaca, The Bohemian Bids); Mendelssohn (Songs without Words, Op 19, Bk 1); Suk (Serenade for strings) 10.00 Musical Encounters, includes: Schubert (Juchzest dem Herrn); Elgar (Dream Children); Fuchs (Serenade in E minor, Op 21); Bach (Magnificat in D with Christmas Interpolations BWV243); Warlock (As Dew in April) 12.00 Concerts of the Week: Ernest Chausson and Henri Duparc; Roger Nichols explores the world of Ernest Chausson and Henri Duparc, who were friends in fin-de-siècle Paris 1.00pm News; BBC Lunchtime Classics, live from St John's, Smith Square, London. London Winds, Pascal Rogie, piano, Barter (Summer Music, Op 311); Poulenc (Sextet); Ludwig Thuille (Sextet, Op 6) 2.10 The BBC Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Joseph Swensen, with Marie McLaughlin, soprano 3.45 Volens, late Burnside introduces a recital by the Canadian tenor Michael Schade, who is accompanied

by pianist David Syrus. Includes Beethoven (Adelaide, Op 46; An die Ferne Geliebte, Op 94); Schostakovich: Der Jungling an der Quelle; Der Blumenriet 4.30 The Baritone Saxophone. In the last programme in the series, John Surman introduces examples of baritone players active today including Americans Ronnie Cuber, Howard Johnson and Jim Hening, and Briton Julian Argüelles 5.00 The Music Machine. Tommy Pearson explores the history of Christmas music 5.15 In Tune. Includes Michael Beasley (White Shepherds Watched); Tchaikovsky (Waltz of the Flowers, The Nutcracker) 7.30 Cleveland Orchestra, under Christoph von Dohnanyi, Liszt (Atmosphere); Wagner (Prelude, Act 1, Lohengrin); Schumann (Symphony No 1 in B flat, Spring) 9.15 Fanny des Sables. Elaine Showalter compares women's lives at the end of the last century with those at the end of our own (16) 9.40 Muffat and Pachelbel. Harpsichord music, including Muffat (Toccata in G minor); Pachelbel (Chaconne in D) 10.00 Ensemble, Beethoven Trio of London. Haydn (String Trio in G, Op 53 No 1); Tareyev (String Trio in D, Op 31) 10.45 Mixing it, with Mark Russell 11.30 Composer of the Week: Robert Simpson (7) 12.30am Jazz Melting 1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 6.40 The Christmas Truce 6.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week 10.00 News 10.05 Start the Week (FM) 10.10 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On the Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray. All this week, a selection of alternative English writers, starting today with poet Ted Hughes and with poet Ted Hughes and with poet Ted Hughes 11.30 Money Box Live: 071-580 12.00 News; You and Yours 12.25pm Noel Coward — from his Diaries, Simon Cadell relays (12.35 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (1.55 Shipping 2.00 News; Wallis — The Life and Legends of Wallis Simpson, by Elizabeth Proud. Wallis begins to understand what the marriage to the former King will mean. With Stockard Channing, Barbara Leigh Hunt (3/4) 3.00 The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Lynne Walker looks at a collection of books on gardens 4.45 Short Story: Loom, by Dawn Lowe-Watson. Read by Sarah Jane Holm. At Christmas in 1944, a young woman is sent to disperse a locust in the Lake District 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping 5.55 Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue. The Arts Theatre in Cambridge is the setting for the first show-down in the series. With Humphrey Lyttelton, Barry Cryer, Willie Galloway, Graham Garden and Tim Brooke-Taylor 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 The Food Programme, Are food intolerances and allergies on the increase? (7) 7.45 The National Theatre of Brent. In the Greatest Story Ever Told. See Choice 9.00 A Human Touch. An exploration of changing attitudes to the body, through the eyes of a mother and masseur (7) 9.30 Kaleidoscope (7) 9.58 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Great Pursuit, by Tom Sharpe. Read by Willie Sharpe (9/10) 11.00 Sentimental Journey. Ronnie Scott tours the New York jazz scene recalling the days that inspired him to open his famous club. With Arthur Smith (4/5) (7) 11.00 Education Matters (LW) 11.30 Airport. Last in the series of sketches set in an airport. With Roger Griffiths (7) 11.30 Today in Parliament (LW) 12.00 News incl 12.27am approx Weather 12.30 The Late Book: Midnight Tales: The Secret of the Gwelling Gold, by Bram Stoker. O'Neil reads a chilling tale (7/8) (7) 12.48 Shipping 1.00 AM World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-92.2. RADIO 3, FM 93.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6. LW 196; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 683, 909. WORLD SERVICE, MW 683, LW 196 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 100-102. MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1083, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McManis

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somewhat forgotten French photographer spent the 1970s photographing women with their hair, make-up and, apart from an obligatory pair of high heels, very little else. What Helmut Newton did — indeed still does — in black and white, Bourdin did in colour. Or as one follower put it: "His work was like candy... with sex."

Another expert recalled how he used to rush to buy French Vogue every month: "just to see how the battle between Bourdin and Newton was going." Of course he did. The fact that both men were exploring the limits to which sadomasochistic sexual imagery could be used in fashion photography at the time was quite incidental.

Nicola Roberts's good-looking film was fascinating for about half an hour but ran out of steam. Photographs and biographical detail badly after that. It can't really all have been his mother's fault.

CHANNEL 1

3.00 **30.00 TAKE FIVE** (13622)
0.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (41993)
0.00 FILM: FDR — THE LAST YEAR (1) Jason Roberts stars in this bi-charting the final years in the life of President Roosevelt. Directed by Anthony Page (7) (857448)
0.00 RIGHT TO REPLY (1) (7) (97) 12.30pm A Box Full of Stones (36) 1.00 Sesame Street (34518)
0.00 FILM: Diane (1955) Costume dir. starring Lana Turner and Roger Moore. Directed by David Miller (8806)
0.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (7) (968) Countdown (7) (852) 5.00 The McWilliams Show (7) (2302177) 5.45 Life (1) (331158)
0.00 MOVIEWATCH Reviews of R. Dahl's *Mattias*, *Sunwing Picasso* and thriller *Daylight* (245)
0.30 HOLLYOAKS (7) (697)
0.00 CHANNEL 4 NEWS (7) (823351) 5.55 THE SLOT (598564)
0.00 DESPERATELY SEEKING
 SOMETHING Pets McCarthy meet alternative Christian group called Summit Lighthouse. Last in series (8719)
0.30 THE REAL HOLIDAY SHOW Reported by holidaymakers from Monte Switzerland and Tenerife. Last in series (7) (4325)

 Endit Blyton unmasked (5pm)
0.00 ~~RECORD~~ SECRET LIVES: Endit Blyton The renowned children's author claimed her books inspired by her own happy childhood idyllic marriage but the program reveals the truth about her unhappily private life (7) (9535)
0.00 HOMICIDE — LIFE ON THE STREET (1) (2622)
0.00 THE AMERICAN FOOTBALL MATCH (447119)
2.00 TRANS WORLD SPORT (45777)
2.00 BLOOD, SWEAT AND GLORY A history of sport. Tonight, athletics and Olympic movement (1) (5694814)
0.00 FILM: Three Hours To Kill (1) starring Dana Andrews and Richard Widmark. A cowboy about to be lynched for murder is given one last chance to find the killer. Directed by Alfred Weidenfeld (5620814)
15 FILM: The Lone Wolf Strikes (1)

30 FILM: *Permanent Vacation* (1980) starring Chris Parker and Leila Gast. A young man learns about life as he wanders the streets of New York. Directed by Jim Jarmusch (96384)

[illegible][illegible]

Relax, the shopping haven has arrived



Selina Blow: her clothes exemplify English whimsicality, and she wanted the shop to match



Egg: shop, art gallery and nurturing space



Shopping doesn't always have to be a dehumanising experience. Grace Bradberry meets the high street's friendly new revolutionaries



An Egg display: no tyranny from assistants

It is late afternoon in Belgravia. A traffic warden wanders down Elizabeth Street, tucked between the twin society poles of Sloane Square and Eaton Square. It is drizzling, it is dark, and there is little sign of life apart from the discreet glow of a few town house windows.

Behind one of these, on a velvet sofa, sits a young woman whose name is dimly recognisable from the literary pages of the papers. Whisky glass in hand, she is deep in conversation with a middle-aged man who arrived ten minutes before. Neither had arranged to meet here, and each, lulled by the congenial salon atmosphere, has more or less forgotten why they made the trip in the first place.

In fact, it was to shop, and they are here as customers, but so unshoplike is Selina Blow's Belgravia "salon atelier" that it is quite possible to pretend, if only for 20 minutes, that one is in a particularly cosy apartment.

This was always Miss Blow's intention. "I wanted to create the feel of a set in Albany. There are no shop fixtures, and it all has a slight edge of humour and eccentricity." Her clothes, particularly her trademark high-collared jackets in brocades and velvets, exemplify English whimsicality, and she wanted the shop to match.

But more importantly, she wanted to prick the bubble of nervousness and pretension — "the high neurotics", as she puts it — that surrounds so many designer stores.

Sometimes she fears she has gone too far. "Everyone thinks I'm ready to come and have a chat when I'm freaking out in the design room upstairs," she says. But many customers do not even realise she is the designer, and she manages to slip through fittings incognito in a pair of jeans. On one occasion an American writer asked to meet Selina Blow, even as she was crawling round her, with a mouthful of pins. "We finally met in a hotel, when I was dressed up as Selina Blow, as it were. She peered at me and said: 'Haven't we met before...?'"

Miss Blow is not the only shopkeeper to try to

turn her shop into something rather different. More than a posture, it marks a rethink of the whole concept of shopping — why and how we want to part with cash, our fears, our desires.

At Egg, the clothes shop-cum-art gallery-cum-nurturing space owned by designer Maureen Doherty, there is nothing so venal as a cash register in sight. "My ultimate inspiration is the corner shop," she has said. "A really vital part of a community and useful for much more than what it sells."

In Kinnerton Street, Knightsbridge, where Egg is situated, a ceramic bowl may well be the equivalent of a packet of Tate & Lyle sugar, but in other respects it's difficult to equate the minimalist interior with the packed shelves of the local open-all-hours.

Nevertheless, Miss Doherty has managed to foster a nurturing ambience, even if those nurtured are scarcely a cross-section of the community. "The ethos of the shop is that people are welcome quite apart from whether they buy things," she explains. "Some of the women who come here breast-feed."

It all began, she says, because she lived upstairs for the first year and a half. "People used to come and throw things at the window and ring the bell and say 'Can I come for a drink' at eight o'clock at night. We had lunch and supper sitting outside the shop."

But her real motivation was the desire to overturn the tyranny of assistants. "Why do I hate shopping? I don't like shopgirls. I think it's the intimidation. I went into Prada in Sloane Street with my dog and they approached me and said: 'I'm terribly sorry, but you have to take your dog outside'." And so she has abolished the shopgirl in favour of the friend and adviser.

And with the shopgirl comes shopgirl patter. If the high street is dehumanising, it is not only because the clothes and interiors are the same nationwide — it is because the verbal exchanges

are, too. A once enjoyable human exchange has been stripped of spontaneity, the approved pleasantries spelt out in the training video.

There is, of course, nothing new in the desire to rid shops of overt commercialism and encourage a social element. Back in the Forties, Nancy Mitford wrote to Evelyn Waugh of her attempts to create a "cocktail party atmosphere" in Heywood Hill, the Mayfair bookshop where she then worked.

It remains an aim of the current director, John Saumarez Smith, though he is quick to point out that he has been in place since 1965 — far longer than Mitford's reign. And he says: "The place wouldn't have survived simply on the ghost of Nancy Mitford."

He is also keen to dispel the notion that Heywood Hill, frequented by those who use the clubs and hotels that surround it, is in any way forbidding. "I wouldn't like to give the impression that it's exclusive or clubby. It could only succeed if we were better informed, and perhaps nicer than other shops on more commercial streets."

Yet the sense of being a privileged member of a particularly desirable club is at the heart of what the new breed of anti-shopkeepers are trying to create. As Ilse Crawford, editor of *Elle Decoration*, and a regular at Egg, remarks: "These places are aiming to give the feeling of being a small club. But not in the sense that anyone would be excluded — only that you feel rather special being there."

Nevertheless, some shops inevitably become clubs where those from the "wrong side" of town are likely to feel outsiders.

But if the clique clutching coffee cups looks too smug, and the sofas are all full as you approach, then it's worth remembering that few of the great ideas of this century have been conceived in shops. Bear in mind novelist Kathy Lette's response when asked if she hung out in shops for inspiration: "Spend time in shops? Don't these people have lives?"

ARTS

Benedict Nightingale sees two new blockbuster musicals open in Toronto Pages 16, 17

A kipper and a wig, please

Guy Walters on the small traders who are forced to stock strange items in order to survive

WAS it naivety that led me to think that Donna Karan would only sell clothes and related items? How ignorant I am if I find the notion of Donna Karan bottled water surprising. I have never seen skirts in my corner shop's fridge, so why do I see bottled water perched among tights and dresses? Perhaps I should not have been so

stunned. It appears that ever more retail outlets are peddling such disparate products. Comedian Paul Merton has long been baffled by stores that not only mend your shoes, but can also cut a set of keys for you. But perhaps Mr Merton has never been through Luton, where I once spotted a shop that sold greetings cards and wigs. Who could own such a retail outlet? Do people go into shops looking for a birthday card and say: "Oh, I nearly forgot. I don't suppose you sell wigs?"

Stranger still, near the office of *The Times*, there is a shop that specialises in "mobile phones and wedding services". No doubt young unmarried people go in looking for a couple of Nokias only to have some oily salesman snarling: "But to really stay in touch, have you ever considered buying a 'wedding'? I've got a couple of

Only such strange mixtures stand a chance of survival.

shops, despite diversifying, will continue to struggle. Not only do supermarkets sell everything in the world, but they have coffee shops and restaurants as well.

Soon, all our leisure time will be spent in places that we once associated with chores. We will drink at the Asda Arms and go to Tesco multiplex cinemas. Our children will go to Marks & Spencer schools (as the comedians Fry and Laurie once predicted) and we will be cremated in the Waitrose car park. And soon we will be able to pay for it all with our Sainsbury's cheque books. And that is not a joke.

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Libby Purves, Juliet Peck and Giles Coren look at past Christmases and what the festival means to them and their families

The best of times, the worst of times

Christmas 1985 changed my life. The previous year I had finally become engaged to my scoundrel boyfriend, Rory Knight Bruce, but at the beginning of the summer he was brave enough to break it off.

I was devastated. Still not recovered by December, I begged Romey Fullerton, my director at Afghanistan, to send me out to the office in Pakistan. My luck was in. I flew out on December 18 for three weeks. I remained for five years, married twice, had my first child and made some of the best friends of my life.

That first Christmas was typical of how my life had changed. Instead of presents and Christmas trees, I toured the hospitals in Peshawar looking for eight patients to send to London on an Overseas Development Agency-sponsored medical programme. I chose hopelessly, both medically and politically. But personally I was hooked.

Within weeks I knew I was to stay. I met the tempestuous, passionate Dominique Vergos, my first husband, who introduced me to a new kind of beauty. The bustle of the dust after the rain, the play of the sunlight through the trees, the scent of the orange blossom in our garden. Most important of all, he taught me to value people for what they are, rather than the society they represent.

Christmas 1988 I cooked Dominique a goose, which I burnt horribly. Five days later he was shot dead by an unknown gunman in our garden. Amazingly, this was the first time that I had ever seen a dead body. We still don't know why he was killed. I wasn't convinced by the police suspect, and not wanting their scapegoat to suffer, I called my own pushy jirga (meeting of the elders) and settled the matter in the ancient tribal manner. Honour was saved on all sides.

I was left with Fyru, our son of 13 months. Determined to finish Dominique's work planning the return home of the refugees, I stayed on.

In December 1990 I was back in Britain for a wedding. By chance, Rory Peck was there for a few days from Baghdad. Rory had also lived in Peshawar and it was there that he first learnt to use a camera. Within a short time he had made a name for himself as a skilled war cameraman, whose total lack of fear enabled him to film some of the best footage of the

many wars he covered. He asked me to dinner. We spent a whirlwind three days together and he insisted we should marry. I was not convinced. I left for Pakistan, he left for Moscow. He insisted that I should join him for Christmas.

I flew out on Christmas Day. Deep snow, the brilliant gold and blue of the Kremlin domes, industrial quantities of champagne and caviar, walks in Gorky Park.

It was the beginning of a new life typical of Rory. All was extreme, everything was the best, the most difficult, the most beautiful. He followed me to Peshawar and we were married on January 8. Three days later he left for Baghdad to cover the Gulf War.

We had only two Christmases together. A rather

'Instead of gifts and trees, I visited Peshawar hospitals'

fraught one in Londonderry, when I was heavily pregnant with our daughter, and a happy family affair with all our children in Moscow. The snow was two-feet deep, falling silently around our wooden dacha. A Christmas service in our local Russian orthodox church, at Ferdeki kino, where we didn't understand a word, but the flicker of the candlelight on the golden icons momentarily impressed even the children. Skating, ice-skating, riding our horses in the surrounding forest. The last brilliant happy family Christmas.

In October of that year Rory was killed outside the Moscow television station during the revolt against Yeltsin. I had been with him up to half an hour before, but needed to return home for supplies. I spent the night searching, searching, knowing in my heart that if he hadn't found me, I would never find him. That night part of me died, too.

So what of this year? Finally I am taken over by my brilliant and vivacious cousin Harriet Crawley. Like a whirlwind she flies in from Moscow, along with Glebb, her charmingly wicked Russian husband — and then on we go again. A new year but no resolutions. I can't keep them. Just my great aunt's maxim ringing in my ears. What is life? "Life is for living, you bugger." Like me she is a Crawley. She would know.

JULIET PECK

● The Rory Peck Trust, which helps the dependants of those killed on assignment, is on: 01937 833933



Christmas: the real thing

Well, yes, you count your blessings. Although at this moment the average disorganised mother feels like a rabbit, frozen in the headlights of the oncoming festivities, we know what the bottom line is. In a world of turbulence and tragedy to have an undamaged family around you at Christmas is something to be quietly, decently grateful for.

If you spread beyond two generations on Christmas Day, all the better. Better still if within the 12 days you manage to take in a good swath of extended family, with brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts and in-laws all cautiously crisscrossing the country on chilly winter roads for a meal, a walk, a party, or a night of giggling in makeshift sofa dormitories. Gatherings reinforce families.

It does not do to romanticise them, of course. Family Christmases always take on aspects of a Giles cartoon, with a lowering grandma, weeping Auntie Vera, dragged Mum, evil tots and resigned father. Our family reunions are generally known as Countings: Aunt Ada Doom and her periodic Counting of the Family. A sense of doom does come into it. Nonetheless, at the deepest level we know our luck, toast the missing ones — two grandfathers, in our case, and others of their generation — and give thanks that the rest of us are here, and on speaking terms.

For me, though, there is another cataclysm to be faced before the day. I collect cribs: nativity scenes and models from all over the world. It began as a small interest in French *santons*, the

figures round the Provençal manger, which come bearing gifts to represent a village's trades. The baker brings bread, the mayor makes a speech, the brigand throws down his dagger in remorse, the village idiot throws up his hands in wonder. Somehow, the collection has grown until there are close on a hundred cribs, from Poland to Peru and from minute to massive, in materials ranging from African wood to Polish cigarette-paper by way of clay, card, tin and wool. Obviously, they have to be exhibited in aid of Save the Children. It would be stupid not to.

Again, let us not be sentimental. With a consumer and family Christmas looming the last thing any girl needs is a commitment to emptying the attic and sorting through a drift of teeny shepherds, kings, oxen, managers separated from their babies, Chilean carved figures waving watermelons, and Josephs whose heads need sticking back on with Copydex. I am not one of nature's curators, and admit that on occasion the Advent hush is broken by crashes, curses and blasphemous cries (Where's the blasted Virgin Mary from this one? Why is it never a shepherd who goes missing? The label's come adrift but I'm positive it's Kenyan sandstone). The children are rocks of support, and of research. It was Nicholas, at eight, who picked up a Bolivian clay Virgin with odd-shaped holes in her gown and blew down one of them. Yes, she is a whistle. Heaven knows why. But fundraising apart, I suppose I do it to untangle the consumer confusions of Christmas and the aggravation of real live family

relationships, and use the riotous diversity of these cribs to meditate on the essential, irreducible human message of the season.

For here at the centre you have the basic family: mother, father, and baby, the baby representing hope for all humanity. Sometimes it is framed in a huge, baroque Polish *szopka*, sometimes in a self-consciously rustic stable, sometimes in a circus-bright theatre frame. Sometimes the figures stand alone, pared down to symbols of themselves. The family is the focus.

But it is not enough. Every culture, immediately tries to put it in a context. The first context is the stable and the animals. This, I suppose, represents the obvious — shelter and food.

The scene rapidly widens. The shepherds and Kings are biblical, but modellers go beyond that to surround the family with a community. Look at a Peruvian *retablo* crib, and you see a wild party with bottles waved, hands clapped, gifts brandished, and the child Jesus waved aloft like the World Cup. In the French cribs the old, the blind, the wicked, the deranged all appear, mixed with a safe solid wall of prosperous human goodwill in the bourgeois bringers of bread and fish. Go to Chile and there are grinning wooden people pitching up with heads of maize and bowls of mush; to Poland, and the baroque powerful structure of Cracow cathedral towers around the simplicity of the little family framed in the main door.

For fun, we updated this a few years ago by commissioning a British maker of figurines to create contemporary *santons* in a Charing Cross arches setting: Jesus in a cardboard box, a punk Joseph and hordes of visitors of all classes with briefcases, mobile phones, judges' wigs, wheelchairs, nurses' uniforms, bag-lady rags and so on. Public figures occasionally appear: this is possibly the only Nativity to have the Thatchers, Robert Maxwell and Quentin Crisp on its fringes, gazing in suspiciously at the central family event.

As I fiddle with these things the stress of Christmas subsides. They remind me that while it is a joy to have a family, cocooning and cosseting of one's own biological kin is not enough. This baby came for everyone, and around him there must be community, and society, and the kindness of strangers. Conversely, any family withers unless it reaches out to welcome the rest of the human race. The folk custom of leaving a candle in the open window on Christmas Eve to light strangers makes sense. The festival looks out from the hearth, as well as inward.

Looking at the polyglot riot of visitors in my attic boxes, though, I can sometimes work out exactly why the Virgin Mary is hiding in the cottonwool. In denial, poor thing. But she always reappears just in time.

LIBBY PURVES

● *Cribs From the World* is at Aldeburgh Cinema Gallery, Suffolk; December 18-22, 10-3 weekdays, 10-4 weekends.

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Tinsel, turkey but no tiny tots

BOB CRATCHIT can shut up as far as I am concerned. I'm with Ebenezer. So he had a dodgy job, a demanding boss, and hadn't done the shopping. It's hardly worth a novel, now is it?

Look at it from a distance. He had a typical Victorian home: poor and simple, but honest and full of period detail. He had a big family.

He had carol singers. He even had snow. What's a little poverty when you've got Empire, cobble streets and gas lamps?

He should try a typical late 1990s, post-Christian, twenty-something, young urban professional, yule-tide dilemma. As far as I can tell, Christmas this year will be an attempt at pretending the previous 364 days were all a dream.

My bed will be made again in the old bedroom with the Marilyn Monroe clock on the wall and the 400 back issues of *Roy of the Rovers* piled on the windowsill. My girlfriend will disappear to her former bedroom in South London for Santa's benefit. My sister will curl up in her little pink bedroom, while her neighbours keep an eye on the flat, and my parents will stay up later than us, eyelids held wide by matchsticks and Douwe Egberts medium roast, so they can fill the stockings we made from pillowcases in 1976.

No one has existential angst. No one is suffering major relationship trauma. No one has a man in a cheap

suit questioning their VAT returns. Back at my flat, a Christmas tree twinkles in the sitting room with no one to look at it. My sister's flat, which has glittered for most of December with red and green sparkly things, is dark. And the tree in the 'ole homestead, which was put up in memory of those who have flown the nest, gets its 12 hours of attention, before becoming, once again, just an irritant to Hoover bags and people trying to get to the kitchen.

Three trees, one small family. Christmas is in limbo this year

all dead. I have failed. So has my sister. And so we sit around, the four of us, two in their fifties, two in their twenties, with paper hats on, wondering just who is kidding who.

My stocking last year had a bottle of whisky, a carton of Camel and some lamb-skin condoms. This is crisis point. My parents want to buy Lego sets and *Beano* annuals. I do a few hours with them, a few with my common-law in-laws, and then I'm back in the flat. Just me and my girlfriend wondering when we can take the tree down. Everyone is fed up with their roles, and waiting to shift up a generation. We are the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future all rolled into one.

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Why we need a minister for veterans



With the responsibility for ex-servicemen spread across 17 government departments, the appointment of a minister for veterans is overdue, says Michael Gove

Five weeks ago the nation stood in silent remembrance of those who fought for our freedoms. Today those veterans who may face permanent silence will endure another loss — the Government is robbing them of their dignity. A reform to pension regulations is simply the latest slight governments have dealt our ex-servicemen and the most recent of many reasons why we need a minister who can devote all his energies to those who gave all.

Changes, first unveiled with the Budget, have angered veterans whose pensions will be frozen while their hearing deteriorates. Battlefield deafness is a cruel, invisible wound. New regulations will mean that ex-servicemen whose hearing was damaged while on duty will have their disability entitlements fixed at the time any hearing loss was first diagnosed. The amount paid to veterans is related to the severity of their disability. Now if their hearing gets worse then the pension will not be altered to take account.

The Government argues that it is acting in line with the best medical advice. But is it right that a safety net veterans once enjoyed should be removed because of current scientific opinion however authoritatively stated? Might it not be more dignified to give soldiers, not scientists, the benefit of the doubt?

In any case, Jonathon Hazell of the Royal National Institute for the Deaf has argued that "noise can have a cumulative long-term effect on hearing loss". Veterans, like Ted Maddison, a 77-year-old former gunner who has lost all hearing in his left ear, feel they face at best an uncertain future. A rueful "I don't know what will happen if my hearing gets worse" masks the worry of one of many men who have seen the country they fought for treat their service disabilities as administrative inconveniences.

A Conservative Government should never regard the growth of its social security budget with pride but service pensions, like disability benefits, should be the exception. Sadly, the Government has never been as generous towards those who have endured as it should. A fair deal for widows in this Parliament was only secured by the intervention of the hereditary crossbencher Lord Freyberg. The Royal British Legion has to spend almost half a million pounds of the money it collects from charity encouraging ex-servicemen to take up their entitlements. Might it not be better if the State were to spend the money necessary to ensure that all those who are eligible for service benefits receive them?

Even when ex-servicemen assert themselves they are not always assured of respect. The Ministry of Defence has, in the past, displayed an institutional indifference to a series of complaints from veterans. Those Gulf veterans who wrung an apology, but so far little else, out of the Government this week have seen their plight treated less than sympathetically by men who have only ever raised a paper clip in anger.

As early as mid-1993 a series of ailments was identified among veterans which had no common denominator other than Gulf service — but the Government initiated a full study only last January. That grudging concession has not been the last. This week the Armed Forces Minister, Nicholas Soames, had to apologise for misleading Parliament about the use of organophosphate (OP) pesticides — which are known to cause nerve damage — in the Gulf. Mr Soames's apology was full and gracious but it only confirmed suspicions that the MoD has often been our soldiers' most implacable foe. Michael Colvin, Tory Chairman of the Commons Defence Select Committee, commenting on the studies into Gulf War syndrome the ministry is currently undertaking, remarked, "there are some people who will be dead by the time [they] are completed".

Explaining why MPs were misled about OP use the MoD civil servant Edgar Buckley commented: "We not only misled Parliament, we misled ourselves." Given the intense pressure over the last three years to investigate the causes of Gulf War syndrome the failure is alarming.

Clearly further administrative reform is required at the Ministry and, in the current Secretary of State and Mr Soames there are ministers with the skill and will to effect change when required. But change is required not just at mandarin level.

The need for a minister dedicated to the demands of veterans is long overdue. It is not a matter of tokenism. The Government already has ministers with cosmetic responsibilities for regions and for women, genuflections to fashionable lobbies. If it were only symbolic then a minister for veterans would at least be an acknowledgement of more deserving claims. But such a reform would be far more than a red box raised to piety — it would be a practical power for good.

The responsibility for ex-servicemen is currently spread across 17 government departments. For soldiers seeking redress the bureaucratic thickets can prove more difficult to slog through than the Normandy bocage. In other Nato countries a veterans' minister is the norm and it is particularly galling for British ex-servicemen to see their former comrades-in-arms from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA accorded the dignity of their own minister.

The American Veterans' Administration is exceptional. US ex-servicemen have their own dedicated government department and healthcare system because the Americans do not enjoy the catch-all provision secured by the National Health Service. There is no need for anything on such a scale here. But the establishment of a minister for veterans with administrative powers on all matters concerned with ex-servicemen concentrated in one pair of hands could make a material difference to the lives of thousands. It is one demand that does not deserve to be met with silence.

Many veterans face, at best, an uncertain future



Gulf War soldiers have received only grudging concessions from the Government over possible contamination from the use of pesticides

When work comes too soon

WHEN I was at school the end of term signalled a time of all play and no work — four weeks of Christmas festivities and fun.

Now, in my maturity as an Oxford student, I have come to realise that a "holiday" should be treated as anything but. University is no longer a

synonym for wild parties, sleeping during daylight hours and generally having an easy life. Rather, as careers advisers never tire of telling us, it is a crucial stepping stone on the path to a career, a time to CV-build and grasp every available opportunity (and not in the sense of taking

out as many student loans as possible).

So, here I am, recovering from the shock of getting up at 7am and boarding a packed commuter train in my quest to show that I can CV-build with the best of them. I, too, can forgo the warmth and comfort of the family home in order to increase my chances of success in the dreaded "life after Oxford".

University is supposed to offer the best years of your life, years that you will reminisce about to your own children. Cocooned from the world, the university environment is one which most teenagers yearn for as a place of idealism and experimentation and above all, as a place away from your parents. Admittedly, fun is not a factor that is missing from my life at Oxford. (Indeed, my father has taken to calling it the "holiday camp" because of the large sums of his money that I consume each term.)

But no longer is it sufficient to bumble along and enjoy three happy, carefree years in the mould of Sebastian Flyte and friends in *Brideshead Revisited*. At the back of every student's mind is the nagging anxiety of three years slipping by without any guarantee of a job at the end of it all.

While students generally used to feel they were doing well if they managed to fit some academic work into a hectic schedule of sleep and socialising, now you are also expected to spend hours sifting through the mass of information available at the university careers office, plotting your future career and writing to potential employers to show your keenness.

And the vacations — well, clearly they are the time to gain the all-important work experience and a few weeks working at Tesco's is far from adequate. One friend, now in his third year, spent the entire summer working in the City, returning to college at the end of it, pale-faced and exhausted.

For someone desperate to get into banking this was not an option but a necessity. With thousands of equally well qualified students applying for a much smaller number of positions, the selection processes of most companies require much more than good A levels and a degree from a reputable university.

Such is the state of things that yesterday my 14-year-old sister approached me, proudly clasp a letter offering her work experience on *The Clothes Show* magazine. Fashion, she tells me, is one area which greatly interests her, with law running a close second. This, at a time when the major anxieties in her life should be boys, clothes and the phone bill, not her future career.

We have to enter the world of jobs, responsibilities and getting up at 7am five days a week soon enough, why can't we delay it for as long as possible?

How nice it would be if, like Sebastian, students today could live a honey-coloured existence, with life after university no more than a speck on a distant horizon.

SIGN OF THE TIMES
by Elizabeth Judge

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THE TIMES

TOMORROW

SPORTS ARTS

Everton visit Derby as they attempt to close the gap on their neighbours Liverpool.

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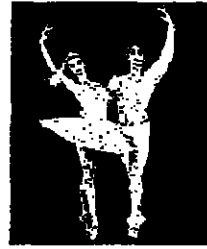
CHANGING TIMES

ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



■ OPERA

Judith Weir's *The Consolations of Scholarship* comes to the Queen Elizabeth Hall
PERFORMANCE: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ DANCE

From Russia with tutu: the Kirov Ballet brings *The Nutcracker* to the Coliseum
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ MUSICAL

Richard Eyre revives his superb National Theatre production of *Gays and Dolls*
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ POP

The evergreen empress of soul, Tina Turner, struts back to Wembley Arena
GIGS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

In the Midlands last week I met someone who teaches those children who have been expelled from all other schools. Without mentioning the issue of television and violence which Virginia Bottomley has brought to the surface once again, I asked him about the causes of violence among the young people he dealt with — a violence he had already described as often highly dangerous. Without any hesitation, he listed the causes as follows: all the children had been beaten, sometimes savagely, by parents or relatives or foster parents, many had been raped, many had been forced into juvenile prostitution, all had been horribly abused and utterly violated.

And the influence of television programmes on all this? Or on Fred West? Or on the man at Dunblane? On any serious list of the causes of violence, television scarcely merits a mention. It seems to those to whom violence is done violence in return. That minority of violent young people watch

Don't make TV the scapegoat for violence

precisely the same television programmes as the overwhelming majority of their peers who, in my experience, are widely well disposed and impressively tolerant. There are audiences for vile and violent videos, but these can scarcely be laid at the door of the major broadcasters which gather up most of the audiences most of the time.

It is true that there is a greater apprehension about crime, and that is often blamed on television, although surely television is no more than the messenger. News — not only on television — is more insistently with us than ever before and some of it is indeed violent. Is the solution to stop reporting on wars, riots, bombings and multiple injustices? Even if it were possible, what would be the point of the ostrich manoeuvre? My guess is that people's desire to be

informed far outweighs their dismay at looking at the worst. So the reporting of violence — even if it could be proved to have an effect on that minority of violent people — is unlikely to be changed much. Already, like all other programmes on the main channels in our country, it is heavily patrolled, but we cannot sanitise the world.

As for violence in television drama, compared with some movies and videos it is innocent on practically all counts. Of course in the urge to be dramatic errors of taste and judgment are made, but our watchdogs pounce on them quickly and these incidents are very few.

There are those who argue that a major worry is an elevation of yobishness — of men behaving badly, and women showing they can be every bit as bad — but that, I believe, is redeemed by wit and



by the transparent decency of those involved. But even if it were not, it would be a brave analyst who declared that the screen led rather than reflected this current yobish fashion in youth and

hanging-on-to-youth culture.

It is understandable to criticise television since politicians assume it to be so very powerful — something I dispute. But faced with the intractability of a violence which erodes the nerve of a society's confidence about its own security, it is natural enough to lash out. Nobody has a solution; moreover, it is important to keep this in perspective. Compared with most countries we are still relatively peaceful and law-abiding and good-humoured.

The problem about treating television as a scapegoat is that it might be seen as offering a real solution. Politicians are as frustrated as the rest of us and as fed up with the disfigurements of violence, however relatively or comparatively optimistic we are about our society. But to bring about a few small alterations in a

television system which is already responsible and well regulated will do nothing whatsoever to address, let alone solve, the difficulties posed for that dedicated schoolteacher going about our business in the Midlands.

I am one of those who is fed up with the Church of England's desire to ease out of its responsibility to the King James version. I know many Catholics who are equally fed up with the slide away from Latin.

If ever I needed to be even more convinced of the strength of my position — which can too easily be made to seem merely blimpish — then that proof came at a Jewish funeral on Thursday.

It was for a young woman in her twenties, Michelle Fox, who had worked with me and made several films on dance — her special

passion — which are as promising and talented as it is possible to be. Michelle was also inspiringly gallant and graceful in her two-year fight against cancer.

At the service the rabbi led the prayers and now and then she alone spoke a prayer in its original Hebrew. It is a language of which I have no knowledge but the sense of its history, of centuries of grief and comfort, of lives lived under this tongue so potent that it held a whole people together, was unmistakable.

I envied it. Our Anglican traditional language is less than 400 years old. Latin, I presume, began to be used extensively in the Catholic church only after the Emperor Constantine. But even so there is a moving and healing sense of a deeper community of lasting values in hearing words that have been heard by so many like us so often before.

Certainly, as the rabbi's clear speaking of the prayers filled the crowded space I felt that Michelle was in fine and ancient company.

'Dysfunctional, but it still works'

The turmoil at the venerable Royal Academy is over; now there is a renewed sense of purpose. Or so its managers tell Simon Tait

One week this summer it seemed as if David Gordon, the chief executive of ITN, was either going to be Rector of the Royal College of Art or the new boss of Sterling Publications. The next he was snuffed as the new secretary and troubleshooter at the Royal Academy.

And trouble there soon was. It became public with the leaking, ten days ago, of his memo to the RA's council detailing for the first time the true financial position. "It's actually a piddling little deficit for an organisation that has to earn 100 per cent of its income and has a £15 million annual turnover," he now says of the rumpus. "The Arts Council will know what a shining light of an example the RA is. What we're going through at the moment is a long-delayed and rather painful process of getting a balance."

The Arts Council comes into the picture because next year the Arts Lottery Fund will be asked for a grant to examine the feasibility of an expansion by the RA into the soon-to-be vacated Museum of Mankind

next door. "We wouldn't put in a bid unless we were absolutely confident that our finances were in a fundamentally sturdy state," Gordon says.

With 4,000 people a day passing through the doors for lunch, shopping or even to see one of three exhibitions on offer at the moment, the RA is certainly popular. But that has not stopped its critics from questioning whether its antiquated rules need revision if the RA is to prosper in the next century. Much criticism, too, is directed at the Royal Academicians, the artists who govern the institution.

They are, in the painter John Hoyland's words, a dysfunctional family. There was fierce opposition, for instance, to the Lord Leighton exhibition earlier this year, because some Academicians thought that the RA's president of a century ago wasn't a very good painter.

Some Academicians don't

like the expansion plans. Some hate the merchandising. There is always dissatisfaction about the Summer Exhibition, and this year saw a row when one Academician's wooden sculpture collapsed as it was being shifted to make way for the fund-raising Summer Ball.

"Of course there are tensions among the Academicians," says Michael Kenny, sculptor and treasurer. "It's what guarantees the place's integrity."

Yet at the annual general assembly, held last Thursday in the wake of the revelations, the president, Sir Philip Dowson, was re-elected overwhelmingly. "The mood was vigorous, not angry," one RA said. "The new secretary took the unusual step of producing an interim report which made the situation clear, ready for the audited report in January, when we'll meet again."

There was concern at the proliferation of staff — 196 when there used to be a couple of dozen. There may well be staff cuts, but no selling of assets such as the Michelangelo Madonna. And Gordon expects that the audit by the accountants Ernst and Young will actually show up an accumulated deficit of no more than £2 million.

Dowson's view is that the RA has been a victim of its own success. A pioneer of arts sponsorship, it enjoyed relative prosperity in the 1980s and had relaxed into complacency

after the huge success of the 1991 Monet show, which made £1.7 million profit, three times the estimate. Then the Tate and National Galleries began putting on the exhibitions the RA might have expected to mount, the recession struck and sponsorship dwindled.

Tension also grew between the administration and the membership. The council of 15 members holds ultimate control, but claimed that the administration had been selective in how it reported to them. Now Gordon has appointed the RA's first ever finance director — Ian Blatchford, once of the Arts Council. John Nickson has also been brought in from English National Opera to be director of development. And Gordon wants to establish a watchdog body of Academicians and businessman members of the RA Trust, to ensure full accountability.

"That's what makes this business of the leak so irritating," Kenny says. "You open the window and someone chuck a brick through it, causing untold damage. The solution is under way, and there's no secrecy now."

"What we have to go on doing is putting on important exhibitions like African Art and Poussin," Dowson believes. "They didn't get enough sponsorship and lost us money, but they have to be seen." Gordon adds: "In the words of our instrument of foundation, we're here to interpret and promote the arts and design, and that will never change. We just have to do it better."



"We're here to interpret and promote the arts and design, and that will never change. We just have to do it better."

CONCERTS: An elevated premiere in Liverpool; a fine recital in London

Seven ways to reach the top

THE difference between lift music and *Lift Music* is that in the former case you can always use the stairs. Once into Ian Gardiner's new piece in the Philharmonia Hall there was no escape until, after four ascents and three descents, we were left on a level higher than the one where we started, somewhat disoriented and wondering how to get down.

Still, elevation is the purpose of all serious art and Gardiner's *Lift Music* has not failed if it achieves it by means of ingenious construction and brilliant orchestral engineering rather than by a surge of imagination. It is entertaining, interestingly coloured and, since it has the courage to proceed slowly on the subterranean levels as well as the urge to coruscate on the surface, effectively paced.

When colleagues are in tears by the end of the evening, you know that a *Lied* recital has succeeded. Within the past two or three years, the American soprano Barbara Bonney has grown from being a seductive and vivacious princess of the recital platform to a true *Königin in Lied* recital, as Strauss's song *Nichts* has it: a queen of song.

What makes Bonney's performances uniquely engaging is her fusion of emotional involvement with technical control. One works on the other; the result is a performance as enraptured and revealing as her Strauss

RLPO/McGrath
Liverpool

It is also, except in a brief diversion into lift music without the capital initials, consistent in style. And at the end it doesn't take long to work out how to get down again: just think of a chromatic scale moving in the right direction, which is basically what Gardiner does in his approach to the seven main sections of the piece, and there you are.

The first performance of *Lift Music* was given by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra with its conductor-in-association, Paul McGrath. Clearly, a young conductor who takes on a piece like that

and *Das Lied von der Erde* in the same programme is not without faith in his own abilities. The justification was a Mahler interpretation which put clarity before expressive ambition and which, in spite of one or two instrumental hesitations, was rewarding for its demonstration of textured detail.

While neither of the two solo performances was stylish enough to offer fully idiomatic phrasing of the vocal line, balance between the orchestra and a heroic Jeffrey Lawton was uncommonly well sustained in the opening movement, and the final attenuation of colour was beautifully achieved by Catherine Wyn-Rogers.

GERALD LARNER

Sovereign skills

Ständchen.
And that was
only an encore.

Her first group of early Mozart songs suggested that this would be one of those rare evenings when the listener would never experience a moment of apprehension as to the truth of a musical idiom. With Bonney, each song is inhabited entirely. Whether in winsome storytelling or in melancholic reflection, the mind has already

imagined the precise quality of a tone, the minutest inflection of a word or phrase; and the voice then realises it perfectly, without any coyness or distortion.

This draws the listener in unusually close. Our imaginations are kindled with Bonney's own, whether in the distant sight of a high star, or in the flare of a flame which burns both a love-letter and the heart of its recipient.

HILARY FINCH

Last night on the street — today both safe at St Mungo's

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CHRISTMAS SHOWS

Pushing ahead of the dames

IF you like your pantos loud, gaudy and robustly uncreative, you will be hard pushed to find better than David Cregan and Brian Protheroe's version of *Beauty and the Beast*. Shorn of camp widows and tacky jokes and rich in melodrama, Philip Hedley pitches his production with canny accuracy at the young and the unworldly.

It helps, of course, that it's a cracking story. The Beast is a young king trapped in a hideously deformed animal body condemned to live alone at a Gothic castle because he refuses to marry a bad fairy. A merchant, who abuses the Beast's hospitality, is forced to send his youngest daughter to him as a forfeit. The Beast falls in love, Beauty rejects him. Hearts break.

Fredric Leys, Joseph Nobel's assistant, is the shrewd or at least the sensible one. With his left leg and stomach made of blistered latex, and the rest of him a rug of werewolf fur, is it any wonder he's in a permanent rage, or that his eyes glow in the dark?

But, like the object of his infatuation, Davina Perera's stunning Beauty, Nobel has the singing voice of an angel.

Beauty and the Beast

Theatre Royal, Stratford East

The songs — more in the tradition of musical than panto — give the show surprising emotional substance.

Like all the best panto the real art is making it look as if it had just been thrown together. Here the ad-libbing skills of Linda Dobell's Candy, the very pink good fairy, Ginny Holder's feisty Snow Drop, and Michael Bertenshaw's Thacherite housekeeper, Mrs Buller, work small miracles for Hedley.

But it is Yvonne Edgell's sophisticated bad fairy who inevitably draws the biggest shrieks. With her 18in cigarette holder and black feather boa she is more Cruella De Vil than wicked witch. Using her magic wand, wheeled on by Humphrey, her hunch-backed cherundman, Delores changes two ecstatic children in the audience into mini beasts.

JAMES
CHRISTOPHER

**JAMES
TOPHER**

Worst of times

HAS The Gate made a mistake here? Isn't *A Christmas Carol* the Dickens tale for the season, rather than a tortuous melodrama of revenge and sacrifice during the French Revolution, particularly one that eschews a happy ending or a climax involving the guillotining of a daret-swilling rake?

The adaptation is by Hugh Leonard. Known as a writer of light and occasionally moderately heavy comedies. With this version, though, he provides a story that jerks and witches between macabre action, treacly melodrama and verbal jousts. The whole event, from knitting the intricate sub-plots, to burying narrative twists for later discovery, is a painfully extended process, making one long for the descent of a nice, swift blade, or an editor's pencil.

Performances from the large cast are mixed, with the armies of smaller roles often providing the only substance. In the leads of Michael Dwyer as Darnay and Stephen Brennan as Carton. In common with most of the production, Marion O'Dwyer (Miss Pross) took a long time

A Tale of Two Cities

The Gate, Dublin

to hit the right note for her frumpy dowager. Eventually, however, O'Dwyer came upon a sturdy comic character, hilariously self-aware in her cantankerous witiness.

Alan Barry's Dr Manette had the melancholic weight of the entire show on his shoulders, but had no difficulty supporting it with tender sadness, while Roian Wilmot's Ernest DeFarge shuffled between mildness and implacable rage. Britta Smith's Madame DeFarge was a deeply unpleasant creation, although one more snarling and inarticulate with rage than seemed really useful.

Another dubious addition to the production was the operatic design of Bruno Schweng, which seemed to look to Mondrian as much as Delacroix for its styling, and was mercilessly consistent, even to the extent of shoe-horning the actors into colour-coded chintz britches.

LUKE CLANCY

CLANCY

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale reports from Canada on two blockbuster musicals



part no spectacle: *Ragtime* moves from Ellis Island (vast steel grilles) to New York's Lower East Side (sepia-photo street scenes) to Atlantic City (masses of period postcards)

Feeling good, looking grim

If you judge by the size of the box-office returns and the bullishness of the local Zeitgeists, Toronto is now the English-speaking world's most theatrically important city after London and New York. And even those traditional critics would be unlikely to stage a combative, savagely expensive assault on musical adaptations of this kind. As the saying is, it's the Canadian way, says anyone who has tried to do.

The local newspapers, and even some of the visiting American critics, have seen these twin openings as an aesthetic cup-tie or financial slug-match. In the dark, spidery shadows, Charlotte Brontë, in the snow-hued one, E.I. Doctorow, in which turns out to be the better one, David and Ed Mirvish's \$4 million production of *Jane Eyre* at the Royal Alexandra, or Garth Drabinski's \$7 million *Ragtime* at the enormous steel-and-glass lun-palace at bathetically calls itself the Ford Centre for the Performing Arts?

The British patriot in me would like to say *Jane Eyre*, for its librettist and director is our own John Caird and its designer the invariably excellent John Napier. But I strongly suspect that — assuming Andrew

Ulyd webbers whistle Down the Wind proves a success on Broadway this spring — Ragtime will be the next but one international hyper-hit. What is more, it deserves to do well. Seldom have I seen a more finely staged show or one that better catches the spirit of a rich and fascinating original.

Certainly, it presents a far more arresting picture of the turbulent, changing scene of the early 1900s than Miles Forman's movie, Ragtime. J.P. Morgan and Henry Ford coldly watch grey-shirted workers scurrying around their factories or stand together on an iron bridge that inesorably lowers to crush the human anthill festering below. The cast-list also includes the black leader Booker T. Washington, the anarchist Emma Goldman, and Evelyn Nesbit, the chorus girl whose lovers had a habit of killing each other. Houdini puts in regular appearances too, in the process becoming a mocking metaphor for classes and races that find it harder than he to escape their chains and traps.

You do, it's true, get the feeling that, if moon travel had existed in 1900, the design team would have flown a space pod down from the

The props include a real car and fire-engine and plausible little planes and ships, and the settings vary from Ellis Island (vast steel grilles) to New York's Lower East Side (sepia-photo street scenes) to Atlantic City (masses of period postcards) to a majestically furnished Morgan Library. It's true, too, that a father has only to mention

6 The twin

openings are
seen as an
aesthetic
cup-tie

baseball to his son for a mini-stadium to appear, complete with singing, spinning fans.

Yet there is thematic justification for most of the spectacle and, paradoxical though it may sound, it is deftly and sparsely used by the director, Frank Galati. Sometimes the stage is filled only with phalanxes of one or other of the social groups

Dorowar aimed to evoke: the WASPs in their elegant creams and fluttering whites, the Afro-Americans nightclubbing in exotic blacks and browns, the immigrants in grey caps and long, frayed overcoats.

Like the novel, Terrence McNally's book switches effortlessly from macro to microcosm, relating the tales of the black musician who loses first his car and then the mother of his child to racial bigotry, the starving Jewish still-life painter, who becomes a movie star, and the well-to-do family that plays key roles in both their lives. The first two stories start with a superb Brian Stokes Mitchell moving from affable nonchalance to helpless indignation to the wintry assurance of the urban terrorist, maintains a particular grip.

Maybe it would grip still more strongly if the piece were trimmed at the edges. It would help, too, if Stephen Flaherty introduced more unpredictable rhythms and exciting synecopation. But there is plenty of tampering time ahead, for the musical is not due to reach Broadway until December 1997, when the new theatre its impresarios are building in Times Square should be complete.

By then Broadway should have

made or broken *Jane Eyre*. My optimistic side can report that Caird relates the story faithfully and sometimes forcefully, using *Nicholas Nickleby*-style narrative techniques, and that Napier successfully evokes that house of secrets, Thornfield Hall, with the help of slanting, shadowy walkways backed by trees that hang like twisted skeletons in the moonlight. But native pessimism forces me to add that New Yorkers, addicted as they are to feel-good musicals, may find the overall effect a bit feel-good.

And what of Crivello's lacking, rather nasal Rochester lacks the necessary charisma and power, Marla Schaffel's Jane manages to reconcile the governess's pale-faced diffidence with the woman's suppressed intensity, and holds you as she makes the journey from over-age orphan to wife. And if Paul Gordon's score seems overpacked with glut rectative, he does also give her some soaring confessional solos. But I was left with grave doubts about the meteorology of Yorkshire. Why no sun, no green? Are chlorophyll and colour banned in Brontë country? An expository due for Michael Fish and John Kelsey is urgently needed.

EVENTS									
THEATRES									
MANOR THEATRE 0171 960 1720	CHAPEL OF LOVE-PICCADILLY	DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL	GIELGUD THEATRE 0171 494	LYCEUM 0171 656 1806	OLD VIC 020 7616312 0034	PRINCE OF WALES 0171 639 5667	ROYAL COURT 0171 565 5000	VAUDEVILLE	

[illegible]

Matthew Parris



I could compile an impressive list of things it is perfectly possible not to have done, and still be human

I mentioned casually to a friend recently that I had never bought a National Lottery ticket. I have no moral objection either to gambling or to Camelot enriching itself, but my conscience is troubled by the thought of all that money being siphoned off to charity.

Mrs Bottomley has no business plundering the lottery punters' treasure trove and giving the booty to theatres in Surrey. If you live in the Home Counties and want to go to the theatre you should pay for it.

Not that I would ban the lottery. On the contrary, it affords pleasure to literally everyone. The 99 per cent of the population who buy tickets have the pleasure of kidding themselves they are going to be millionaires; we 1 per cent who do not buy tickets have the pleasure of knowing we are already a couple of hundred pounds better off.

Yet when I mentioned my eccentricity to a friend, his reaction was little short of scandalised. "You've never bought a lottery ticket?"

"Never."

"Not once? You don't even know how to?"

"No idea. I think newsmen sell them, don't they?"

He looked at me as one might a time-traveller from the 4th century, his likely next question being whether I knew how to use a knife and fork. He still looks at me now, as if something weird and unbridgeable sets me apart from other men.

And it struck me that this was yet another example on an impressive list we could compile of things it is perfectly possible not to have done, and still be human. The world looks on, amazed, but the secret or self-confessed abstainer knows it is only a very small thing that separates him from others.

Believe it or not, some people have never listened to *The Archers*. Here, too, I plead guilty. To say this may offend many readers of *The Times*, but I do think you'd have to have a rather sad life to wish to employ your spare time keeping up with *Archie*. I did catch a few minutes of it by accident the other day, and a worse-acted radio drama I have yet to hear. It was dire. Millions of you, I know, are addicted. Please be assured that we who do not share your habit find it remarkably easy to function as normal citizens in every other respect.

Nor have I ever done a crossword. I simply don't see why one would. Are our days on this Earth not short? Is the night sky not filled with stars? Are there not symphonies to write, dragons to fight, oceans to fathom, mountain ranges to cross...?

I have a friend who has never watched *EastEnders*.

Unlike *The Archers*, *EastEnders* is well-produced and well-acted, but you can take or leave all that shouting and my friend leaves it. She remains capable of carrying on with her job and sustaining a satisfactory level of social interaction with her peers — she simply cannot discuss *EastEnders*, that's all.

Though forced to play at school, I have never watched a cricket match or listened to a cricket commentary, or understood the rules. My friend Paul Burstall has never been to a football game, never worn a dinner suit, never watched a royal wedding, never been on a package holiday to Benidorm, never smoked a cigar, never driven a car and never mooned. He feels diminished only by the last.

With Paul, staying for the weekend, is Jeremy. Though gay he has never seen a Barbra Streisand movie or owned a cat. His mother in Glossop has never attended a funeral ("I don't believe in them"). More amazing still, his auntie Vivienne (Westwood, the fashion designer) has never watched television, though she was recently persuaded to view, briefly, a video of herself on Channel 4.

And consider sex. If one were to believe a quarter of the rubbish one reads, one would suppose it was barely possible to be human without engaging in vigorous, regular sexual activity with at least one other person and preferably dozens. Of course most people hardly do and many never do.

Others don't drink — honestly: not at all. Some do not eat meat. Half of Britain has never taken drugs. Many of my friends don't read newspapers. Some never go abroad, many do not fly, a couple have never been to London and one has never seen the sea. There even are people who have never been questioned by MORI or Gallup.

Everything these days, even politics, seems to revolve around marketing to "niches." Apparently we all fall into them. There is the Radio 4 Archers niche, the prime-time TV soap niche, the sexually active under-50s niche, the holiday-in-Benidorm niche, the villa in Tuscany niche. But the biggest niche of all is the niche of people secretly worried by the fact that they haven't done or don't do something at all. Friends, you are my niche.

I write this because future historians may try to reconstruct what life was like on Earth in 1996, and do it by reading old newspapers and watching television archives. So here is a message to you, historian of the 22nd century: "Do not overlook us. We abstain; we survive. And we're quite all right."

The Dublin summit has left Europe in a mess and the British have no policy and no influence

Germany's postwar history has been admirable — far better than that of Britain or France. The greatest achievement is the development of a stable and mature democracy, combined with a strong economy. The economic recovery started with the introduction of the deutschmark in 1948: in the first six months industrial production doubled.

Ludwig Erhard's social market economy gave Germany a freedom France had never enjoyed, and Britain did not enjoy until the 1980s. The strong Chancellors, Adenauer, Schmidt, Kohl, have given Germany coherent political leadership. Germany is the economic anchor of the European Union. Reunification brought together the two parts of a single nation. No nation did more to wreck Europe in the first half of the 20th century, and none has done as much to heal and strengthen Europe in the second half.

I wish that I could write in the German language, because I would like Germans to know that there are many British people who recognise and value the German contribution to European development since 1945 and admire and like modern Germany. That is true even of many of those who, like myself, are thought of as Eurosceptics, or at least as anti-Maastricht. Fortunately, *The Times* has many German readers who speak excellent English and read it without difficulty. It is to them that this column is particularly addressed.

Sir Siegmund Warburg was the one great banker that London has seen since the war: he was trained in the classic German banking tradition of hard work, integrity, discretion and foresight. He brought to London the virtues of the German training, including an unremitting attention to detail. If he had been alive to study the single currency problem in its

Why we're all losers in the battle of the euro

present form, he would have been at least as concerned about the detail of the arrangements as about the theoretical strategic implications: he would have known that the details would decide the strategic outcome.

The issues which were decided at Dublin last week included some essential details. Germany has wanted to create a non-political euro which would be as good as the deutschmark: it was German policy to re-create the deutschmark on a European scale, in the hope that would give the European Union the advantages of a strong and stable currency that Germany has enjoyed since 1948.

Germans know from experience that a strong currency is a better basis for economic development than a weak one. They have seen how the opposite policy worked for Britain. The French objectives were very different. The French have been successful in capturing the European Commission; Brussels is not just a French agency, but it is to some degree a French agency.

Bernard Connolly was sacked for pointing out that the French objective in supporting a single currency was to share the authority of the deutschmark. But French currency policy is very different from that of the Bundesbank.

The Bundesbank has made currency stability its overriding objective, as it is legally bound to do; that has created the strong deutschmark, one of the world's hardest currencies alongside the yen and the Swiss

franc. France sees exchange-rate policy as a political and commercial weapon. That was what President Chirac meant when he blurted out on television that he saw the single currency "as a means to fight against the US dollar". He did not mean that he wanted the euro to be stronger than the dollar; he wanted the dollar to go up in price, so that US exports will be less competitive. France is in favour of a competitive euro, which means a weak one.

The French Government also

William Rees-Mogg

wants a politically-influenced euro, a currency which leaves room for governments to run deficits, and eases the social pressures which are now felt so strongly in France. M. Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, told the *Financial Times*: "We don't want all decisions on economic, budgetary, fiscal and monetary policy to be shaped by a technocratically-driven, semi-automatic system under the sole authority of the European Central Bank. That is not our concept of democracy."

France has now won two decisive victories. The Maastricht treaty itself made exchange-rate policy for the euro a matter for the Council of

Ministers, acting through qualified majority voting. The Dublin summit agreed that fines arising from the stability pact will have to be determined by the Council of Finance Ministers, again acting by qualified majority voting. This is not an independent euro; the exchange-rate and fiscal policies will both be politically determined through the usual European process of bargaining for majorities in the Council of Ministers.

It is now more likely that Italy and Spain will be allowed to join the single currency from the beginning. The euro will not be a Germanic and independent currency, but a Latin and politicised one, not so much a substitute for the deutschmark as a substitute for the franc. It will not be a hard currency, but at best semi-soft. The deutschmark is the symbol of Germany's postwar achievement. To exchange it for a euro-mark would be a sacrifice; but an endurable one. To exchange it for a euro-franc is bitter indeed.

Germany is like Esau, who surrendered his birthright for a mess of pottage. But if France has sandbagged Germany, Britain has played an almost contemptible role. We joined the exchange rate mechanism in 1990 at the wrong time — it coincided with the economic shocks of the recession and German reunification — and at the wrong price.

We agreed the Maastricht treaty in 1991 with an opt out, but also with heavy reservations. We never had a referendum on Maastricht because

after 1992 it would certainly have been lost. In 1992 we left the ERM, partly because Germany would not support us, but partly because it was unsustainable.

British public opinion has now swung decisively against a single currency, to the point at which British membership of the European Union is threatened. It matters little that British fears of the euro are based more on the rigours of joining a hard currency than on fears of the inflationary character of a soft one. Sterling has long been a soft currency, so the French style politicised euro would feel rather like what we are used to already. The euro is now so unpopular in Britain that these distinctions are not being made. Germany needs Britain.

Sadly, the big failure of German as well as of British policy has been to allow the early 1970s triangle of German-Franco-British understanding to become a bilateral Franco-German alliance. That occurred after the death of President Pompidou in 1974 and the defeat of Ted Heath in the same year.

The bilateral Franco-German relationship contains stresses which need the trilateral relationship with Britain to release them. Culturally Britain is a Nordic, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant country; the English are the lost German tribes. Excluded Britain, and Europe becomes predominantly a Catholic, Latin, Mediterranean culture, wearing a sort of Nordic top hat. Even the Poles are Catholics.

The Dublin summit has left Europe in a mess. The British have no policy and no influence; Germany has lost the battle for a euro which will be as good as the deutschmark; even France has over-reached herself, and has killed the deutschmark without creating a currency.

A royal crusade for change

The Prince of Wales's vision for building a better designed Britain has broken new ground in architectural thinking, says Richard Hodges

The Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture was founded with a simple aim: to bring architectural thinkers and practitioners together both to address a range of concerns about the built environment as well as to explore alternative ideas for contemporary architecture.

It was also founded to fill a void that had arisen in teaching: while over the past two decades there has been self-evidently been staggering technological and economic change across the globe — which has had a profound impact on our cities, on architecture and on the environment — orthodox architectural education in Britain has signally failed to respond to these changes.

Instead of becoming more flexible and practical to cope with the speed and nature of change, it has instead retreated into the theoretical groves of academe which are ever more remote from people's everyday concerns — where it has inevitably been caught between the rock of professional exclusivity and the hard place of deep university funding cuts.

In contrast, the institute has pioneered entirely new ways of teaching which extend far beyond pure architectural theory, important though that is, to embrace wider planning issues, the fine arts and building crafts. These apparently novel — but in practice broad-based and traditional — teaching methods have included summer schools, urban design taskforces, a foundation course and post graduate and research degrees in both architecture and a range of crucial related skills.

They have taken place not just in Britain but also in Europe, east and west, and America. They have attracted students from all five continents, brought together by a shared disillusionment with the blinkered

narrowness of modernist education.

The striking vision that the Prince of Wales gave his institute broke new ground in architectural thinking. Far from being just a seat of learning, he intended it also to be a force which crusaded for change — drawing the zeal for that crusade from the concerns of ordinary people about the degeneration in their built environment. He wanted it to enhance public understanding and appreciation of the value of traditional approaches to architecture and urban design.

From the beginning he was concerned that it should link the practical activities of the builder to the aesthetic concerns of the architectural theoretician — drawing on the tremendous surge of interest from ordinary people in the possibility of finding more in their surroundings than the unthinking arrogance and secular materialism offered by the architects and planners in recent decades.

In short, he set up the institute to begin restoring to our towns and cities that sense of place which had been erased by the blitzkrieg of postwar development. The Prince's vision did not call for a simplistic application of any particular style, but a focused approach to developing a more sustainable system of creating the environment in which people have to live.

By those high standards set for it in 1992, the institute has seen remarkable success. In the four years since its launch, the institute has concentrated on developing a core educational programme combining traditional and innovative components. This in turn has had an important impact on traditional tertiary education, forcing a number of British institutions to develop new, interdisciplinary and modular courses.

But these are huge issues, and in



Prince Charles: he has listened to the concerns of ordinary people

four years we have been able only to make a start in changing attitudes and implementing the vision of the Prince — which is even more relevant now than it was when the first summer school was held.

This is also clear from the recent publication by the Architects' Council of Europe of a manifesto, *A Vision of Europe and Architecture Tomorrow*. The central theme of this document, which draws on the Prince's book *A*

Vision of Britain, is stark in its clarity: "Much of tomorrow's built environment can and must be transformed to become an environment for all citizens. But that environment must be a built environment born out of a coherence of intention, where timeless themes of sustainability, durability and delight are restored for today's building user and for contemporary society." This message demonstrates that the concerns motivating the foundation of the institute are now widely shared.

However, while it is now received wisdom that our built environment faces huge challenges, the next step forward is less apparent. As a result, there is an opportunity for the institute to build upon the first four years of its work and achievement, to concentrate on finding innovative solutions to the problems of the late 20th century and to work ever more closely with the community at large. The institute should be a vehicle for planners, surveyors, managers, financiers, engineers and architects, who are all in need of fresh bearings in a world that is becoming steadily more conscious of community values and the logic of sustainability.

The institute, of which there are already nearly 200 alumni, has a chance to enter a new stage of development, securing a role as an important engine of change. We must seek to tackle as practically as possible the horrendous architectural problems that beset many of our inner cities.

For too long these problems have been the Cinderella issue of all those involved in British architecture — talked about in hushed tones in municipal circles by planners and builders, but never receiving the practical and sensitive action they deserve. The institute intends to fill that void, and to make real progress in the crucial task of regenerating inner cities.

The author was appointed as the Director of the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture last week. He is Professor of Archaeology at the University of East Anglia, and a former Director of the British School at Rome. Peter Riddell is away and his column will resume after Christmas.

Melt down

THERE IS concern that President Mandela is not getting the nutritional requirements needed for a man of his age. At a banquet in a KwaZulu/Natal town last week, he whispered to the organisers that he would like to take some of the food home in a doggy bag.

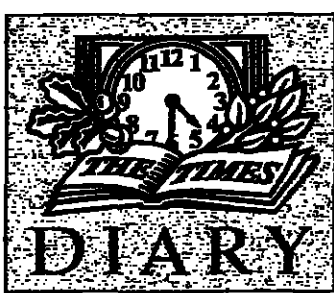
After arriving an hour late for the lunch at a smart hotel, Mr Mandela seemed appalled at the

prospect of having to miss dessert if he was to keep his next appointment of unveiling a plaque in Howick. Determined to take it with him, he put the request to the hotel owner.

Unfortunately it was not the most transportable choice. A dripping selection of fruits with kiwi, mango and raspberry sorbets in a wafer basket was assembled and the President dispatched a security officer to collect the package. "It's so nice to find such fine hospitality at a country establishment," he said, with enormous satisfaction.

Well noted

MONEY changed hands in the chamber of the House of Commons last week but to everyone's surprise not a murmur was raised. During a particularly boring debate Andrew MacKinnay turned round to his Tory colleague Andrew Robathan and handed him two £5 notes. The Speaker overlooked the incident supposing that MacKinnay was giving Robathan the money to buy a present for his recently born child. In fact the money was the re-



sult of a bet between the two MPs. MacKinnay had said there would be a general election before Christmas, Robathan had bet against it.

● Neighbours of the ubiquitous radio and television presenter, Chris Evans, report that he has taken to cooking in the nude. He has been regularly spotted in nothing but an apron, if that, behind a simmering saucepan of bolognese sauce.

Painted lady

INSPIRATION is on hand for Kenneth Clarke as he struggles to make the national sums add up. At a reception last week at 11 Downing Street, Gillian Clarke, master-quilter and the Chancellor's wife, pointed admiringly to a portrait of

Ada Byron, sole legitimate offspring of arch-philanderer Lord Byron.

In contrast to her artistic father, Ada was a brilliant mathematician who assisted Charles Babbage in his pioneering work on computers. Her portrait now hangs in the Clarke's main drawing room: "I like her very much," says a homely Mrs Clarke, "notwithstanding the mathematical connection. I think it's her strong jawline and strident pose that appeal."

Everything is not quite as it seems, however. In later life, I discover, Ada lapsed into gambling and opium abuse.

Sarnie barney

RIGHT-WING Tory MP for the Isle of Wight, Barry Field, is no slouch on his feet when it comes to apprehending a law breaker. He was being driven by his wife in their Land Rover in Cowes when a youth on the pavement hurled a large sandwich against the windscreen on the driver's side.

Field's shocked wife slammed on the brakes. Without hesitation he leapt out and pursued the vandal who was fleeing down the street on the handle-bars of another youth's bike. "I legged it after them," Field says. "The offender was not too



Ada Byron: pretty bright

happy when I caught up with him and took him to the police station." No charges were preferred.

● Dieting diners at *Champneys* health resort may be tempted to snack on the tiny but nutritious limbs of the edible dormouse (Latin: *Gilg Gilg*). An environmental audit of fauna and flora taken recently of the 170-acre estate has revealed it is the habitat of these little creatures. They are a protected species, however, even though the chief executive, Lord Thurso, sounds positively bloodthirsty about them: "They are low in fat

and a refreshing alternative to turkey," he says, salivating.

Bussed up

THE SULTAN of Brunei, a firm fan of Kevin Keegan and the Magpies since they visited Brunei last year to play in a guest tournament and to give local players a spot of coaching, is giving Newcastle United a £750,000 double-decker luxury coach. The black and white-striped vehicle will include individual television sets for every seat and an area for the club physiotherapist to treat injured players on the road.

Star players have, before now, received jewel-encrusted watches as a token of appreciation, but this latest gift has truly impressed the team. "An ordinary executive coach with a television and video would only cost about £160,000," says a spokesman from a coach rental company.

Stepping out

HUGH GRANT and Liz Hurley have arrived in Rome for the European premiere of the already much-ridiculed film *Sansom and Delilah* tonight. They are staying at the Hassler Hotel, near the romantic



Liz Hurley: seen through

Spanish Steps, but they have booked into separate rooms.

Hurley has resorted to her usual method of attracting attention. On Saturday night she attended a private view of the film in a full-length but see-through black backless dress by the designer Ungaro. The frock was so diaphanous that, "you could see her bottom right through it," according to one pop-eyed observer. Eventually even Liz Hurley tired of the attention and Grant lent her his jacket to cover up.

P.H.S



"Thank God"



THE PIG'S HEART

Better evidence of low risk needed

Modern doctors must be as familiar with ethical guidelines as they are with *Gray's Anatomy*. As new skills and better techniques are developed, it becomes ever harder to shrug the shoulders and declare a case hopeless. Yesterday's bold experiments are tomorrow's clinical routine. But the success of new treatments, including those born in a storm of controversy such as organ transplants, has created a situation in which doctors are forced to play God, choosing where to bestow the gift of life. For every recipient of a transplanted organ, there are several more denied by age or circumstances, and thousands wait on lists aware that the supply of organs is never likely to be sufficient to help them.

Faced with these difficult choices, medicine can and should look to animals as an alternative source of organs. Not as new as they seem — insulin and heart valves from pigs have been saving lives for decades — techniques of xenotransplantation nevertheless do raise real ethical and safety issues. There are some who feel instinctively that exploiting animals in this way is morally indefensible. But the majority of those, including several expert committees, who have examined the subject closely have not concluded that this constitutes a real moral objection. Animals have been raised to eat for ten thousand years in spite of the fact that *Homo sapiens* can survive without meat. To balk at raising animals in order to harvest their organs, when no alternative exists, would be irrational. Only if it could be shown that the animals suffered needlessly would an ethical issue arise.

The questions that remain are those of efficacy and safety. So far, we do not know whether animal-to-human transplants will work, and if so, how well. The scientific principles that underlie research programmes in Britain and in the US, however,

appear sound. They involve the production and breeding of transgenic pigs which express on the surface of their cells proteins derived from humans. If all works as intended, these proteins will switch off the attack which the human immune system would otherwise deploy to destroy the transplanted organ. The heart of a pig will have been given the outer appearance of a human heart, so far as the immune system is concerned, and sailing under these false colours it should be safe from a broadside which would otherwise demolish it. Laboratory experiments can be used to measure the success of this subterfuge, but the only true test will come on the operating table.

The patients chosen will have everything to gain and little to lose. But society has wider issues at stake. As we report today, viruses carried harmlessly by pigs may turn out to be harmful when transferred to man, even triggering an epidemic. Enough animal diseases have been transmitted to man to make this more than just a theoretical risk, but one that is not easy to measure. In the US, the risk has been deemed justifiable against the possible benefits and guidelines are relatively permissive. In other words, the hope of saving the lives of tens of thousands of people in need of a transplant outweighs the small risk of an animal virus infecting them and others.

In Britain, with the BSE disaster still unfolding and its human cost still uncounted, an even more stringent analysis will be needed. Tentative research has revealed a risk that pigs could carry viruses harmful to humans: that line of inquiry should be deepened. The proponents of xenotransplantation are confident that the risks are small; but so were the scientists who dismissed the dangers of BSE infecting man. Greater certainty than we have at the moment is needed before we go further.

ARMS AND IRAN

Clinton's caution is right - for now

Limited warfare is a delicate and difficult weapon for a government to unsheathe, let alone to use. Washington politicians are debating whether President Clinton should launch missile attacks against targets in Iran as punishment for Iran's sponsorship of terrorists who killed 19 American servicemen at a barracks in Saudi Arabia last June. Military action, if any, would take the form of cruise missile strikes against terrorist training camps or Iranian military bases. Given that neither the exact purpose of such strikes nor the evidence justifying them have yet been clearly defined, Washington is right to pause and to play down the significance of its internal discussion.

Iran's sponsorship of terrorism across the world and the potential threat which the Tehran regime poses to the stability of a region stretching from Turkey to Turkmenistan is beyond dispute. If Iran was a state dedicated to the peaceful resolution of its disagreements with others and to eradicating terrorism, Salman Rushdie would not still be protected and in hiding. Some of the most precise allegations of terrorist sponsorship by Iran have been made in recent months by a German federal prosecutor who laid out evidence for his claim that both Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and spiritual and political Ayatollah Ali Khamenei personally approved the killing of four Kurdish activists in Berlin in 1992. Iran's intelligence minister is alleged to have ordered the murders and is wanted by the German police.

Confronting the Iranian danger has never been simple. Diplomatic attempts to nudge the Iranian political process towards "moderation" has never worked. The outside world has never mustered the cohesion

necessary to impose effective sanctions; it is by no means clear whether isolating a society and economy which has been through the sufferings of the Gulf War would yield much leverage. The "critical dialogue" conducted by the EU has delivered little except a disgraceful episode in which European governments which should have known better almost gave way to Iranian blackmail over Mr Rushdie.

Against this background, American frustration is understandable. But punitive strikes need to be publicly justified to work. The evidence of Iranian involvement needs to be plain and accessible. The 1986 American air strike against Tripoli after US servicemen died in a German disco bombing was undermined by the weakness of information which Washington displayed in public and by the fact that it was persistently disputed. Officials in Washington have underlined that the information handed over by the Saudi Government needs checking. US investigators have not yet been allowed access to suspects detained by the Saudis. Transatlantic disagreements over Iran are already bad enough; they would hardly be improved by American action launched on a half-baked case.

Military action needs a clear purpose in view. Air strikes, as the Israelis have demonstrated, can be lethally effective against chemical or nuclear facilities which cannot easily be replaced. Because terrorism relies less on sophisticated technology and plant, hitting camps may achieve lesser results. Since the Iranian Government is unlikely to be discouraged from arming and financing killers by limited strikes against its facilities, any counter-action needs targeting at the killers themselves.

RICH LINEAGE

Don't deny Ireland's heritage

The Irish character, like a Donegal tweed, may seem uniform at first but it is shot through with unexpected colour and one of the richest threads comes from the contribution of the Anglo-Irish. Since the first landfall of Norman knights almost a millennium ago the Celtic stock of the island has been leavened by outside influence. Ireland became not a colony but a cousin of England, tied by blood not bought and bound. Many of Ireland's favourite sons and not a few of her better daughters are Anglo-Irish in origin — from Jonathan Swift to W.B. Yeats, Louis MacNiece to Molly Keane. It is all the sadder then, as melancholy as a neglected garden, to witness the rude handling of the Anglo-Irish gentry at the hands of the one party in Ireland that might be expected to honour their heritage.

Henry, Earl of Mount Charles, heir to the seventh Marquess of Conyngham and master of Slane Castle is the victim of discrimination. The discrimination is none the worse for being directed at an Old Harrovian pop promoter. Lord Mount Charles has been denied the chance to stand for Fine Gael in the forthcoming elections to the Dail. His desire to stand was not the mark of a dabbling dilettante but a man serious about politics. Lord Mount Charles is no Lord Sutch. He carried Fine Gael's banner at the last general election and did notably well. He has been denied the prize that might be his, victory on the back of the Fine Gael-led government's economic suc-

cess, because his elegant face no longer fits. The new Fine Gael candidate Fergus O'Dowd has talked disabblingly of those who have "a liberal dash of telly-ho". He could do with a liberal dash of by-your-leave. It is particularly unfortunate that Lord Mount Charles should be treated so in a party led by a man who has done so much to celebrate a pluralist vision of Ireland.

John Bruton is proud to proclaim as his hero John Redmond, the constitutional nationalist who sought an accommodation with Unionist concerns before republicanism bathed Ireland in blood. Last year, speaking at the Irish War Memorial Park at Islandbridge, he invoked the "British" part of Ireland's inheritance, paid tribute to those countrymen who had worn the King's uniform in the fight against fascism and asked for an Ireland in which "all strands" would be celebrated.

Even to make that speech, fifty years after de Valera presented his condolences to the German people on the death of the Führer, required bravery. It will always be to Mr Bruton's credit. It is all the more a pity that Mr Bruton cannot keep as one of his candidates Lord Mount Charles, a distinguished sprig of a distinguished strand in Irish life. There are, at present, only two Protestants in the Irish Parliament which hopes to play a significant role in bringing peace to Ulster. A welcome from that parliament's parties to the minorities in their own midst might make it easier for others to extend a friendly hand.

Euro regulations 'beneficial to UK'

From the Director General of the British Bankers' Association and others

Sir, John Redwood suggests (article, December 13) that the UK should veto the regulations providing the legal framework for the euro if we do not get our way in other areas.

These regulations are not an imposition from Frankfurt or Brussels. London-based banks and investment houses actively sought these key provisions to ensure that the meaning of existing contracts is not put in doubt by the introduction of the euro. The regulations will be beneficial to UK interests, and to the interests of other EU states, whether or not the UK chooses to participate. Without such certainty, there is a risk of litigation over the interpretation of existing contracts, and, in the future, parties may be less willing to enter into long-term contracts in London for European currencies or the euro.

Vetoing the legal framework will not delay the euro timetable — the relevant provisions will be brought in for the participating countries anyway in 1998 — it simply prejudices the UK's ability to compete on equal terms.

Yours faithfully,
TIM SWEENEY,
Director General,
British Bankers' Association.
KIT FARROW
(Director General,
London Investment Banking Association),
CHRISTOPHER PEARSON
(Chief Executive, Association for
Payment Clearing Services),
Pinners Hall,
105-108 Old Broad Street, EC2,
December 13.

Policy on EMU

From Mr David Bramley

Sir, Mrs Gillian Bardenet (letter, December 12) is so right to point out that at the moment when the Tory party has run out of patience on EMU, the debate in France has only just begun in earnest.

The British Government's position is perfectly clear, perfectly correct and perfectly fair to Euro-sceptics and fanatics alike. It is to get the economy in shape to join — because the joining criteria are in any case good: to participate fully in setting up EMU — because important UK interests are involved; at the point of decision to make a recommendation about joining; to let everyone vote in a referendum on that recommendation.

The Tories should actually be congratulating themselves on the soundness of the Government's position, a product of Anglo-Saxon pragmatism and prudence. "Wait and see" really means that the UK can now wait for the rest of Europe to catch up.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BRAMLEY,
116 Avenue des Champs-Élysées,
75008 Paris,
December 12.

From Mr Richard C. Green

Sir, Rather than "wait-and-see" or "wait until it's too late" (letter, December 5), surely with the French mayhem increasing as the winter goes on, threatened strikes in Germany and the miracle required for Italian participation, should not the policy be "don't bother, it will never happen"?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD GREEN,
The Whittens Farms Ltd,
Lyonshall, Kington, Herefordshire,
December 6.

From Mr J. E. Humphrey

Sir, Is it not extraordinary that a Prime Minister who is good-natured, fair-minded and fearless; who has a true sense of humour; and who puts the UK well to the fore of itself, is seemingly a candidate for destruction by his own parliamentary party?

Yours faithfully,
J. E. HUMPHREY,
9 Offington Gardens,
Worthing, West Sussex,
December 12.

From Mr Brian W. Haines

Sir, I am in a quandary. I want a federal Europe, I believe in a single currency. I think we need it now.

So who do I vote for?
Yours faithfully,
BRIAN W. HAINES,
9a Sharples Hall Street, NW1,
December 9.

From Mr Alasdair Shand

Sir, Examination of the illustration of the proposed logo for the euro banknotes (December 12, letter, December 13) shows that it is not balanced, being heavily biased to the left, and will have a tendency to roll over on its back. The euro would appear to be unstable as compared to the £, whose logo clearly has a sound base.

Yours faithfully,
ALASDAIR SHAND,
Timber Hall, Cold Christmas,
Ware, Hertfordshire,
December 13.

From Mr Richard F. Webb

Sir, The 200 and 500 euro banknotes, at today's values, would be worth approximately £150 and £375 respectively. Is someone anticipating significant levels of inflation?

Yours faithfully,
R. F. WEBB,
22 Coverdale Road,
Solihull, West Midlands,
December 14.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Angling for solution on cormorants

From Major Sidney Vines

Sir, Brian Clarke's article, "Why cormorant report was shooting in the dark" (Sport, December 11; see also letters, December 9), is a clear and forceful account of the untold damage done to the sport of angling by the Angling Times article which reported what appeared to be a wholesale massacre of cormorants by anglers — and approved of it.

I have been an angler all my life (I am now over 70) and I regard the whole tenor of the Angling Times article as false. Anglers are a law-abiding body, like the British nation of which they are a part. Also like the British nation, they contain a few hoodlums. But to tar us all with the same brush is nonsense, written merely to cause sensation.

Yours faithfully,
SIDNEY VINES,
1 Willow Close,
Laversham, Salisbury, Wiltshire,
December 11.

From Mrs Brigitte Langenhagen

Sir, I fully agree that illegal, wild and uncoordinated shooting of cormorants is to be condemned, and have several times raised the issue in the European Parliament.

Since 1979, when the bird became a protected species, the situation has changed. There are now more than 600,000 cormorants in Europe which seriously jeopardise fish stocks in the seas, lakes and rivers, and the once endangered bird now itself endangers other species which are part of the ecosystem.

The European Parliament still wants the cormorant to be protected but has urged the European Commission to make a proposal to change the status of the protection. This would allow a European management plan to deal efficiently with the bird.

Yours etc,
BRIGITTE LANGENHAGEN,
97 Rue Belliard, B-1047 Brussels,
December 13.

From the Executive Director of the Angling Foundation

Sir, Annex 1 of the EU Bird Protection Directive, passed in 1979, gave strong protection to 74 birds. It should have included the pygmy cormorant, an

uncommon species confined largely to southeastern Europe.

However, in a mistake which has remained uncorrected, the list included the northern European cormorant (*sinensis* subspecies), a migratory bird which did not merit its newly-acquired status as rare, vulnerable or endangered.

With the adoption of the directive in Britain, through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, all cormorants were granted protected status in this country, including the resident, numerous *carbo* subspecies and the *sinensis* form. Cormorant numbers rose to about 17,000, and, with increased commercial exploitation of inshore fish stocks, conflict with anglers became inevitable.

The impact of the error was evident, too, throughout mainland Europe, where total numbers of the *sinensis* subspecies have expanded more than tenfold. Mirroring this trend has been the build-up of widespread anger among European anglers: 10,000 of them attended a lobby of the European Parliament at Strasbourg last October.

Resolution of the present conflict necessitates an admission of error by the EU and the reversal of the relevant legislation.

Yours faithfully,
BRUNO BROUGHTON,
Executive Director,
The Angling Foundation,
National Agriculture Centre,
Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire,
December 9.

From Mr John Gudgeon

Sir, Is not the alleged problem the same as the one which pigeon fanciers claim to have with peregrine falcons, and which some sheep farmers and grousemoor proprietors claim to have with other raptors? It is called the predator-prey relationship.

More pigeons put up by fanciers, more waters opened and stocked for angling, more intensive stocking of fish, simply mean more food for predator species such as the cormorant, which will therefore thrive.

If that is so, then culling will not solve the problem. After all, you prune your plants to make them grow even more strongly. Do anglers really want "super-cormorants"?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN GUDGEON,
2 Clackstone Road,
Downham Market, Norfolk,
December 10.

War widows' pensions

From Baroness Strang

President of the War Widows' Association of Great Britain

Sir, This association is naturally very concerned over any proposed cuts in war pensions or benefits (report, December 6). Although we are assured that no existing war pensioners will have their income reduced, we understand that the Government proposes to abolish war widows' entitlement to rent allowance. This will affect future war widows.

Rent allowance is only paid to those widows who have a dependent child and so normally affects only the youngest war widows in the country. They are often living in Service accommodation at the time of their husband's death and so have to find somewhere else to live. The allowance can make a difference to them, yet the savings to the Government would be very small. On March 31, 1996, only 747 widows were in receipt of this payment. As the maximum is £30 per week, and most receive less than half this amount, it costs the Government

in the order of £1 million.

In 1995 Parliament agreed to reinstate widows' pensions to war widows who had lost their pension through remarriage and were now again single. The estimated cost of this was given as £45 million. We understand that this was over-budgeted and that it has only cost about £35-40 million to implement. Further savings are surely unnecessary — indeed we should like to see the savings made on the reinstatement used for the benefit of war widows.

The approximately 2,300 war widows in receipt of an attributable Forces Family Pension (an occupational pension to which their husband contributed) should be allowed to keep that pension (not the DSS pension) for life — at present they lose all their pensions if they remarry or cohabit. Redressing this wrong would not involve any new money: we calculate that it would actually result in a saving to the DSS budget.

Yours,
STRANGE,
House of Lords,
December 9.

Dyslexic children

From Dr Henry Pearson

Sir, As the father of a dyslexic child I was somewhat shocked to read remarks by Alice Mahon, MP for Halifax, implying that dyslexia was a mental illness, potentially caused by being a "latchkey child" (report, "Mental illness will strike 40% of children", December 2).

Dyslexia is a developmental disorder marked, typically, by difficulty in learning to read despite adequate intelligence and conventional teaching. Evidence exists for both genetic and environmental causes of dyslexia: it

can run in families, and it has also been related to problems arising during birth.

A valid point would be that "latchkey children" who also have the misfortune to be dyslexic are less likely to receive the family support very necessary to cope with homework that often takes longer than for others, catching up on work not completed in class and on extra homework set as part of a remedial scheme.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY PEARSON,
88 Wodeland Avenue,
Guildford, Surrey,
December 3.

Heart to hub

From Mr Victor Broadribb

Sir, Regarding Dr Robin Weller's letter (December 11) citing St Matthew vi, 19 "... where thieves break through and steal".

Some years ago I went to put the evensong collection into the vestry safe only to discover the disappearance, via the vestry room kitchen window, of collections from services held earlier in the day. It was Harvest Festival: I reckoned that at the time of the theft we were singing "All is safely gathered in ...".

Yours etc,
VICTOR BROADRIBB
(Churchwarden),
5 Parish Piece, Holmer Green,
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire,
December 11.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Fatigue syndrome

From Dr Clifford Yorke

Sir, Dr Staufford quotes the report published in October by the Royal Colleges of Physicians, Psychiatrists and General Practitioners on chronic fatigue syndrome/ME with an uncritical eye (report, December 6; letters, December 13). But *The Lancet*, in its editorial of October 12, was forceful in its criticism, calling the report "haphazardly set-up, biased, and inconclusive".

It pointed out that the psychiatrists have "won the day for now", but said that things might look very different in ten years time when at least some of the conditions now grouped together as CFS/ME may be found to have an organic origin.

Yours faithfully,
CLIFFORD YORKE
(Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist),
Anna Freud Centre,
21 Maresfield Gardens, NW3,
December 9.

Exemption appeal for firearms Bill

From Mrs Sarah Cooper and others

Sir, The Firearms (Amendment) Bill is to have its second reading in the Lords on December 16. The Bill will destroy the sport of pistol shooting in this country, a sport which is one of the original 12 modern Olympic disciplines. Its proposed restrictions on .22 calibre pistol shooting will inhibit and prevent our best competitors from training to the necessary standard to represent this country in international competition.

The Bill will also mean that the highly successful national team cannot participate in higher-calibre pistol events in any international competition, including when we host the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in 2002.

Imagine the sense of outrage if other high-profile sporting people were similarly affected: Steve Redgrave sitting on the towpath at the next Olympics or the English football team being precluded from taking part in this year's European Championship. Those who devote their lives to excellence in shooting sports have the same right as any other sportsmen or women to expect their needs to be properly considered.

The Government should exempt the small and highly defined group of competitors who make up the national squad. To suggest that these people are likely to commit an outrage such as Dunblane is highly insulting. They are the same dedicated sportsmen and women who have been hailed as heroes when bringing home numerous medals for this country.

Yours faithfully,
SARAH COOPER
(Commonwealth gold medalist),
MALCOLM COOPER
(Olympic gold medalist),
CHRIS HECTOR
(Commonwealth gold medalist),
MIKE JAY
(British and Welsh free pistol champion),
JOHN LEIGHTON-DYSON
(National Rifle Association chief pistol coach),
SHIRLEY MCINTOSH
(Commonwealth gold medalist),
SUSAN PRESTON
(British junior pistol coach),
IAN SHIRRA-GIBB
(British national coach),
c/o The National Smallbore Rifle Association,
Lord Roberts House,
Bisley Camp, Woking, Surrey,
December 13.

Hodgkin's work

From Mr David Gould

Sir, When John Ruskin accused Whistler of flinging a pot of paint in the face of the public, I doubt if he could have anticipated what might follow 100 years later.

He would have been utterly amazed to see Howard Hodgkin's work at the Hayward Gallery (review, Arts, December 10), and he would have been baffled by Richard Cork's flowery prose. The coloured reproduction of *Keith and Kathy Sachs* would have appeared to Ruskin as palette scrapings, and the daubing of a beam-ender frame would have astonished him even further.

Dare one claim that Ruskin unwittingly brought about a new dimension in painting?

Yours most sincerely,
DAVID GOULD,
Highcroft,
South Woodchester, Gloucestershire,
December 11.

From Mr William Wells

Sir, What a pity that Richard Cork in his enthusiastic review of the Howard Hodgkin retrospective should choose to illustrate it with a picture that would cause a new pupil at nursery school to retire to the corner of the room in embarrassment.

Yours faithfully,
BILL WELLS,
30 Compton Close,
Southcrest, Redditch, Worcestershire,
December 11.

Rich and poor

From Mr D. Parry-Smith

Sir, Professor P. D. J. Weitzman (letter, December 11) highlights the riches being spent by people in the UK on Christmas presents, while the poor children of Afghanistan rob graves to pay for food for their families. What is new about this? It was ever thus, and with more people, there can only be more poor.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PARRY-SMITH,
Witlesea, 10 East Field,
West Hill, Ottery St Mary, Devon,
December 11.

Seasonal spouses

From Mr Sid Sullivan

Sir, During a recent shopping expedition I chanced upon a display of Christmas cards for "wives" above which was the following inducement: "Buy any three and get a fourth free." Is this an example of goodwill to all women?

Yours festively,
SID SULLIVAN,
Ellenor Conages,
25 New Road, Brentford, Middlesex,
December 14.

OBITUARIES

EDWARD BLISHEN

Edward Blishen, author and broadcaster, died on December 13 aged 76. He was born on April 29, 1920.

An old-fashioned journeyman of Grub Street, after an apprenticeship as a schoolmaster, Edward Blishen made his living out of writing combined, once he had made his name as an author, with regular broadcasting. He wrote a number of autobiographical works as well as helping to produce various books and anthologies for children. But he will almost certainly be remembered best for the charm and enthusiasm with which he conducted the BBC Radio 4 programme, *A Good Read*.

He was already nearly 70 when he first started presenting this programme in 1989, but his selection to act as host to distinguished authors choosing their own books proved an inspired one (later, he got a right of choice, too). Never intimidated even by figures of the stature of Claire Tomalin and Roy Jenkins, he brought his own lightly worn erudition to his studio discussions and this, combined with his mellow, appealing, broadcasting voice, gave the programme its distinctive flavour.

His success in the role was a just reward for all the years he had spent toiling in the bowels of Bush House, working on unshowy programmes for the BBC's World Service audience, of which the best known was probably the eclectic *Writers' Club* which he presented for the African Service for 13 years.

Next to his Radio 4 broadcasting, his other main claim to fame lay in his popular series of autobiographical books — what he realistically described as "a forward-moving mosaic of sketches" about a life that was not, in fact, all that momentous. His writing, though, was colourful, with a deft touch for comic detail, and



he always managed to leave his public eagerly waiting for his next offering.

Born in Barnet, north London, Edward William Blishen was educated at Queen Elizabeth Boys' Grammar School there. On leaving school he became a reporter on a weekly newspaper in Muswell Hill from 1937 to 1940, and, as a conscientious objector, spent the war years as an agricultural worker. After the war he took up teaching, first at The Hall preparatory school in Hampstead from 1946 to 1949 and for the next nine years, until he became a full-time writer, at Archway secondary modern school in Islington.

It was this experience which set him on his writing career. His first book, *Roaring Boys* (1955), which he wrote while he was still teaching (concealing the school's name by calling it Stonehill), was set in a secondary modern school in a slum district and describes how an inexperienced young teacher gradually acquired a measure of control over his tough pupils, an assortment of insolent misfits. It contained some fine pen-portraits and brought him instant recognition as a writer of much promise and as a pundit and broadcaster on educational themes.

He was immediately propelled into a new status in which he found himself invited to lecture or speak at educational gatherings in various parts of the world. It was, he said, as if, having knocked up a shed in the back garden, he had been invited to take part in the designing of St Paul's. It all provided rich material of which he was to make full use as a professional writer with an aptitude for acute observation and a penchant for treating serious subjects in an entertaining and sometimes slightly irreverent manner.

Blishen spent some time being what he described as a "literary oddjobman" — adapting novels for broadcasting in instalments and during the 1960s editing a number of children's encyclopaedias, miscellanies and books of poetry for children. Then, in 1969, he followed up his first highly successful novel with another book about teaching, *This Right Soft Lot*. The following year, with Leon Garfield, he wrote *The Gold Beneath the Sea*, a children's book which won the Library Association's Carnegie medal.

But it was for his autobiographical themes that he became best known. In *A Cack-handed War* (1972) he wrote good-humouredly about his conscientious objection to war service and of his experiences as an agricultural worker in the fields and farms of East Anglia.

Blishen's love of literature and music had earlier cut him off from his father, a clerk in the Civil Service who did not approve of his son becoming an intellectual. In *Sorry, Dad* (1978) Blishen made an attempt to sympathise with, even if he did not wholly understand, his parents' attitude, and in *Lizzie Fye* (1982) he wrote again about his family, this time his mother and his middle-class upbringing.

Donkey Work (1983) is an account of his rise from unknown teacher to modest celebrity status as broadcaster and reviewer. His other autobiographical publications include *A Second Skin* (1984), *The Outside Contributor* (1986) and *The Disturbance Fee* (1989), in all of them he achieved a nice balance between amusing, sometimes farcical, experiences and serious reflection. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1989.

Blishen was able to conclude the last series of *A Good Read* — though he had started to alternate with another presenter — before becoming ill. It had, however, already been decided that he would not take part in the next series when it returns in January.

He was one of the dozens of sound radio broadcasting, having been regularly at the microphone — he presented *The World of Books* for the Overseas Service's *Topical Tapes* long before he came to the presenter's chair of *A Good Read* — for nearly forty years. There are a number of African writers who owe him a great debt for the encouragement he gave them through the *African Service's Writers' Club*, with which he was first associated as long ago as 1959.

Edward Blishen is survived by his wife, Nancy, whom he married in 1948, and by two sons.

ERNST BAMMEL

Ernst Bammel, New Testament scholar, died on December 5 aged 73. He was born in Adenau, Germany, on January 20, 1923.

to the occasional Teutonicism. There was always the hope that the lecturer might mention what he for long called the "truncation of John the Baptist".

AN EMERITUS Fellow of St Edmund's College, Cambridge and Emeritus Reader in Early Christian and Jewish Studies at the university, Ernst Bammel was a scholar of profound learning. In Cambridge his angular figure seemed to translate the almost untranslatable German word *Wissenschaft*, which, while it literally these days means science, stands for the whole corpus of human knowledge. In academic discussion Bammel's thin face lit up, and he was charged with energy and determination.

The New Testament was at the heart of his work. His numerous publications also embraced rabbinics, the church fathers, the 19th-century church, and intellectual history. An historian by training, he stressed the importance of the Jewish setting of Paul and John as well as of Jesus. His approach stood out in a period when, under the influence of Rudolf Bultmann, the New Testament was widely being related to Gnostic writings and existential philosophy.

He was born the son of a scholarly pastor, Fritz Bammel, and his wife Paula in Adenau, a small town in the Eifel, the hilly region west of the Rhine between Koblenz and Bonn. He studied at the universities of Bonn, Göttingen, Tübingen and Vienna. At Bonn he took his two doctorates, one of philosophy (on 19th-century German history) and the other of theology. In the latter he was a pupil of the New Testament scholar Eberhard Stauffer, whom he followed to Erlangen University. Here Bammel was *habilitiert* — formally inaugurated into academic life — and became a lecturer.

Stauffer was a difficult man, and Bammel did not share all his views; but he did not wish to disagree publicly with a teacher to whom he owed so much, and whom he judged to be as distinguished as the better-known Bultmann.

Such problems influenced him when he successfully applied for a lectureship in Divinity at Cambridge in 1962. He already knew England, having visited Oxford and worked there, and having been for a time the S. A. Cook Bye-Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. He later became a Fellow of St Edmund's College and was appointed to a university Readership.

He was honoured in 1983 and 1990 by volumes of essays written by former pupils and other friends, and in 1992 by the award of the British Academy's Burkit Medal for Biblical Studies.

Bammel's lecture courses on the Johannine literature and on textual criticism amounted in each case to a substantial original treatise. They required corresponding attention. His audiences looked forward, perhaps unworriedly,

Another feature of Bammel's teaching was his stimulating graduate seminar. It took place in his crowded room, which was not so much book-lined as book-pervaded. Bammel concentrated on the sources, but also drew on his deep knowledge of earlier scholarship, with a penchant for unfashionable giants and learned radicals. His relations with colleagues were not always easy, but the pupils and fellow-workers whom he encouraged include many names now well-known in biblical study in Britain and overseas.

Among topics of his own research were the Dead Sea Scrolls (his ideas on the place in their background of the Jewish temple of Onias in Egypt were taken up, with full acknowledgement to Bammel, by Sir Godfrey Driver in his book on the scrolls); Herodian history; John the Baptist; the gospel source Q; ancient Jewish mysticism; the eschatology of Jesus and Paul; and the history of Jewish-Christian controversy.

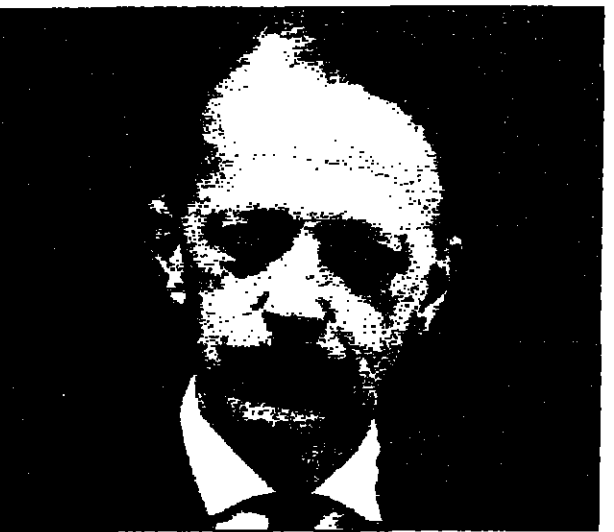
His book *Jesu Nachfolger* is an original study of succession to Jesus in early Christianity. He published repeatedly on problems connected with the trial of Jesus, and edited a volume on this subject in honour of Professor C. F. D. Moule. With Moule he edited a book on *Jesus and the Politics of His Day*. It constitutes the fullest consideration and critique of the theory that Jesus and his followers formed a revolutionary movement. He admired his friend David Daube's work on rabbinic Judaism and Christianity, and with C. K. Barrett and W. D. Davies edited a volume in Daube's honour.

Bammel's love for his own land, its language and culture emerged not least in his hospitality. When still unmarried he would sometimes organise a *Deutscher Abend*, when hock was served and only German spoken. Later he and his wife jointly gave their guests a kindly welcome in an inimitable Anglo-German atmosphere.

In 1979 Bammel married Caroline Penrose Hammond, a distinguished patristic scholar who was also teaching in Cambridge. In 1984 he was appointed professor and head of the *Institution Judaica* at Münster University, but no post was available for Caroline, and he gave up the position and remained in Cambridge, though he inherited a house in the Rhineland.

His wife's long illness and her death in 1995 were a source of great sadness to Bammel. He resolved to prepare for publication some unpublished work left behind by her, and he also offered to give the lectures that she would have given.

His own health deteriorated, and cancer developed. He died in Germany where he was being treated. He and his wife had no children.



R. C. D. PERMAN

R. C. D. Perman, Fellow of St Peter's College, Oxford, 1956-88, died on December 3 aged 75. He was born on February 17, 1921.

REG PERMAN was one of the old school who devoted the whole of his working life to lecturing, tutoring, examining and administration in the University of Oxford. A modest man, he would probably have been astonished to discover the high regard in which he was held.

Reginald Charles Dennis Perman went up to St John's College, Oxford, from Eltham College in south London with an Open Scholarship in Modern Languages in Trinity Term 1940. Most of his war service he spent with the decoding group at Bletchley. Resuming his studies in 1945, already married and a father, he took a first in French and gained a Harmsworth Senior Scholarship at Merton College. In 1948 he was made a faculty lecturer in the university with attachments as a lecturer at St Peter's Hall and Balliol College. He was awarded the Paget Townbeke Prize for work in Old French in 1949, and became a Tutorial Fellow of St Peter's in 1956.

Perman was the first of the second generation of Fellows of St Peter's since its foundation as a Permanent Private Hall in 1928, and he fulfilled the role of bridge-builder between the generations admirably. His courtesy and conscientiousness made him an ideal committee member and holder of various college offices.

He guided and developed the college's sports clubs for many years. Under his friendly stewardship the Senior Common Room, particularly

the quality of its guest-night meals and of the wines in its cellars, flourished. He fulfilled the offices of Vice-Master and Senior Tutor with distinction and was a valued source of love and wisdom for the successive Masters of the College under whom he served.

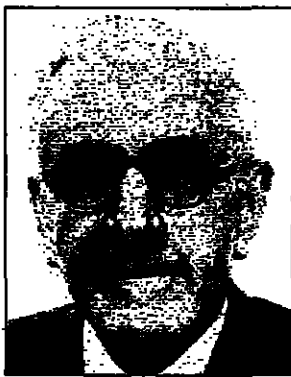
As French tutor, Perman was exacting, kind and encouraging in equal measure; he built his pupils up. He was one of a vanishing breed: though a medievalist, he had very wide literary sympathies and knowledge, and happily guided his pupils through French literature of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries in their weekly tutorials. When he retired, he was genuinely astonished, though nobody else was, at the expressions of gratitude and affection he received from pupils and ex-pupils in the three colleges he regularly taught for: St Peter's, Balliol and Corpus Christi.

As a medievalist, Perman was one of a group of distinguished medievalist scholars who worked and taught in Oxford in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, and who all contributed articles to the *Festschrift* for Professor Alfred Ewert, their mentor. He lectured memorably on the *Chanson de Roland*, the *Roman de la Rose*, and medieval farces. He was for many years the general editor of Blackwell's French Texts series. He also contributed a fine annotated selection of the poems of Verlaine in the *Clarendon* series. He was a member of the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board. He was a delegate of that body and ultimately, until as recently as 1988, the skilled chairman of its board.

Perman is survived by his wife Alma, whom he married in 1941, and by his four daughters.

SIR CHARLES SOPWITH

Sir Charles Sopwith, solicitor, died on November 15 aged 91. He was born on November 12, 1905.



CHARLES SOPWITH was an outstanding lawyer whose career, virtually all in the public service, was remarkable for its duration and diversity. The positions he held — Public Trustee, Solicitor to the Board of Inland Revenue, Deputy Secretary in the Cabinet Office, Second Counsel to the Chairman of Committees in the House of Lords — bore witness to the range of his interests.

The youngest of four children of a Tyneside shipbuilder, he was educated at South Shields High School. In the ordinary course of things he could have expected to follow his elder brother to Cambridge. A decline in his father's business, however, meant that he had to be articled as an accountant and he qualified as a chartered accountant in 1928.

The legal studies involved in the accountants' exams had aroused in him, though, an enthusiasm for the law and in 1933 he took articles as a solicitor in London with C. H. Vick, a member of a well-known legal family.

He had evidently impressed Vick because his articles were free, and that was rare in those days. He took a first class in both the Intermediate and Final examinations of the Law Society. In the latter, in 1938, he came joint top of the list of all candidates. It proved to be a vintage year for future government lawyers because joint top with him was Henry Woodhouse, who later became Legal Adviser to the Department of Transport.

When war broke out a year later Sopwith, who was pronounced unfit for military service, soon found himself drafted into the Central Office of Information, where he remained for the rest of the war. He progressed rapidly to become Assistant Director, Press Censorship in 1943. In that post he worked under one of the most celebrated lawyers of his time, Cyril Radcliffe, who later became a law lord. Like everyone else who ever had dealings with Sopwith, Radcliffe was impressed by him and suggested that he would be well suited to work as a government lawyer.

Sopwith took his advice and at the end of the war joined the Solicitor's Office of the Board of Inland Revenue, judging that department to be particularly suited to his dual qualifications as lawyer and accountant. Again, the promotions came rapidly and by 1956 he had risen as high in the office as seemed possible for him, given the relative ages of himself and the then Solicitor.

Five years later the post of Public Trustee fell vacant, and Sopwith, somewhat to his surprise, was appointed to it. Instrumental in that appointment was the then Attorney

General, Sir Reginald Manningham-Buller, who later, as Lord Dilhorne, became Lord Chancellor. He had been briefed by Sopwith in some important Revenue cases and was another senior lawyer whom Sopwith impressed.

Sopwith could have expected to continue as Public Trustee until his retirement but in 1963 Sir Angus Fraser, the Solicitor to the Board of Inland Revenue, died suddenly and the chairman of the board, Sir Alexander Johnson, had no doubt that Sopwith was the best man to succeed him. So it was that Sopwith went back to the board as Solicitor and remained there until he reached retiring age in 1970. He was knighted in 1966.

That turned out to be far from the end of his career. Very soon he came out of retirement when invited to take up a temporary post in the Cabinet Office as chairman of a small committee of lawyers who were part of the team preparing the instructions for the drafting of the European Communities Bill. This was a demanding exercise and Sopwith started with the disadvantages that he had no experience of the preparation of legislation (his work in Inland Revenue had been largely in the litigation sphere) and had virtually no knowledge of the European Treaties. Nevertheless, he threw himself into the work with characteristic vigour and determination, as ever relishing a challenge, and carried it through until the Bill was enacted as the European Communities Act 1972.

By then he was 67 and might have rested on his laurels. So far from doing so, two years later he embarked

on an entirely new career as Second Counsel to the Chairman of Committees in the House of Lords. This was a new post created in order to provide legal counsel for the European Committee, a committee set up by the House to scrutinise proposals for Brussels for community legislation. Sopwith was the first holder of this committee post and stamped his authority on it from the outset, bringing to it all his formidable powers and tremendous industry. He held the position for eight years, by which time he was 77 — and even he felt he was ready for retirement.

Sopwith was a reserved man with a deep seriousness and sense of duty, and a certain toughness that matched his sturdy build. At the same time he had a well-developed sense of humour and, once one had penetrated his reserve, was a warm and congenial companion. His interests were wide but his deepest love outside his family was for music and he was for many years a director and member of the committee of management of the Royal Academy of Music. The honorary FRAM which the Academy awarded him in 1984 gave him great pleasure.

His family bonds were strong throughout his life. He made a late but notably happy marriage, though, sadly, his wife Ivy predeceased him by nearly 20 years. They had no children but he had had a profound influence on the upbringing and education of two nieces, the daughters of his sister, with whom he lived throughout the war years. He remained close to them and was a valued friend and guide to the next generation of four great-nephews.

EEC curb affects beefburgers

By Hugh Clayton

Meat traders complained yesterday that EEC protectionism had produced a shortage of the type of beef needed for beefburgers. They also called for a cut of at least 15p in the pound in EEC lamb prices to avert the creation of a "mountain" of surplus lamb.

Mr John Locke, director of the Bacon and Meat Manufacturers' Association, explained in London that barriers erected under EEC farm policy kept out beef from traditional suppliers.

"Manufacturers want cheap, grass-fed beef from Argentina and Australia and not grain-fed beef from the EEC," he said. There was too much expensive fat beef in the Community and too little cheap lean.

He said British companies which bought frozen meat from the rest of the EEC for making such products as sausages were to prepare a blacklist of suppliers whose meat contained frozen imports had included pieces of plastic labels and metal staples, which could damage saws in sausage factories.

Mr Michael Silver, president of the Imported Meat Trade Association, called for a cut in EEC lamb prices and a switch in cheap Community beef sales.

ON THIS DAY

December 16, 1980

Not so long ago there was a European beef problem of a different kind: the beef needed for making beefburgers was in short supply, too much expensive fat beef in the Community and too little cheap lean.

Mr Silver believed that EEC lamb prices would have to be cut by between 15p and 20p in the pound next year to discourage farmers from producing a surplus.

Welsh language victory inspires other Celtic nations

By Tim Jones, Cardiff

Now that the huge caravan sites are deserted and the hills are bereft of the gaily coloured tents of summer camps, parts of Wales have returned to a remembrance of the Celtic kingdom which language idealists wish had never vanished. In the Lleyn Peninsula or in

the rural hinterland of Gwynedd or Dyfed many people communicate throughout their workday in their native tongue, then pick up their children from Welsh schools before going home to listen to Welsh language radio or television programmes.

It is a remarkable tribute to linguistic tenacity, for the language has survived not only infiltration from the attractive culture of its large neighbour but also attempts in the past to legislate it out of existence.

Extremists maintain that the "English government" is still committed to a deliberate policy of killing the Welsh language, although the facts do not bear them out. In fact, successive post-war administrations have given increased aid to foster the language and now, with the battle for Welsh programmes on the fourth television channel won, it can fairly be argued that if the language dies it will be because of the apathy of the Welsh people.

The success of the fourth channel campaign has motivated supporters of minority languages in the other Celtic "nations". In France, the International Committee for the Defence of the Breton Language claims that the Government is, by "hostility and trickery", flouting the right of the tongue to survive. Spoken by fewer than 500,000 people, Breton is the only living Celtic language in continental Europe.

Appointments

The Rev Ronald Ferguson, Vicar, Castleside, Consett; to be part-time Chaplain for Gateshead Healthcare and part-time Senior Assistant Curate, Holy Trinity, Washington (Durham).

The Rev Peter Hunter, Assistant Curate, New Borough and Leigh St John (Wimborne St John); to be Priest-in-charge, Warminster Christ Church (Salisbury).

The Rev Oswald Jesson, Curate, Thorpe Acre w Dishley; to be Assistant Priest, w special responsibility for North w South Kilworth and Miskerton (Leicester).

The Rev Robert Kenway, Rector, Birmingham St George (Newtown) (Birmingham); to be Vicar, Caine and Blackland (Salisbury).

The Rev Peter Langford, Vicar, Middlesbrough, St Chad; to be Rector, Eastington w Lorton (York).

Church news

The Rev Richard More, Senior Assistant to the Bishop of Chelmsford; to be also a Non-Residential Canon of Chelmsford Cathedral (Chelmsford).

The Rev Richard Mulken, Director of the Missions to Seamen (Northern Region); to be also Assistant Curate (NSM), Oulton w Woodlesford (Ripon).

The Rev Seve Olumide, formerly Anglican Chaplain to Bradford Hospitals NHS Trust (Bradford); to be Anglican Chaplain to Parkside Health NHS Trust (St Charles Hospital, Paddington Community Hospital and Princess Louise Hospital, Kensington) (London).

The Rev Simon Parrett, NSM, Holy Epiphany, Muscliffe (Winchester); to be Chaplain's Assistant, Poole Hospital

NHS Trust (Salisbury).

The Rev Andrew Pearson, Priest-in-charge, Hunslet Moor; to be Vicar of that benefice (Ripon).

The Rev David Pickering, Team Vicar, Jarow Team Ministry and Information Technology Chaplain w the Northumbrian Industrial Mission; to be Anglican Priest, Local Ecumenical Project, Newton Hall (Durham).

The Rev John Richardson, Team Rector, Hugglescote w Donington, Ellistown and Saltbarn; to be Rector, Hallaton w Horninghold and Alkington, Tugby, East Norton and Slawston (Leicester).

The Rev Richard Saunders, Curate, Cranham Park (Chelmsford); to be Team Vicar, Kinson Team Ministry (Salisbury).

The Rev Irene Shaw, Curate,

Holy Redeemer, Lamorbey; to be Vicar, All Saints, Belvedere (Rochester).

The Rev Jonathan Sibley, Curate, Chalfont St Peter; to be Priest-in-charge, Sulhamstead Abbots and Barnister w Uffon Nerve (Oxford).

The Rev Dr Mark Sibley, Vicar, Grenoside (Sheffield); to be Vicar, Chorleywood, St Andrew (St Albans).

Canon David Tizzard, Priest-in-charge, Distington and Diocesan Urban Priority Area Link Officer and Civil Emergency Planning Officer, Churches Together in Cumbria (Carlisle); to be Team Vicar, Beamister Team Ministry (Salisbury).

The Rev Jeremy Trigg, Rector, Rowley w Skidby (York); to be Team Vicar, Wolvorton Team Ministry (Oxford).

The Rev John Ward, Rector, St Bride's Minch w St David, Betws (Llandaff); to be Vicar, All Saints, Shard End (Bham).

NEWS

Epidemic fears delay pig transplants

The first organ transplants from pigs to people have been delayed because ministers fear they might transmit potentially deadly viruses.

Scientists have recently proved that pig viruses can grow in human cells, and there is concern that while these might be harmless to the animal, they could provoke a lethal epidemic among people. HIV almost certainly came from animals, and strains of flu that have killed millions of people in pandemics this century originated in pigs and birds. Page 1

Unionists rebel over fishing quotas

The Government was last night trying to head off a possible defeat in the Commons today after the Ulster Unionists warned that they would withdraw their support unless they won significant concessions on fishing quotas. Page 1

Prison condoms

The Government is allowing condoms to be issued in jails in England and Wales to prevent the spread of infection. Ann Widdecombe, the prisons minister, has admitted. Page 1

Blair alone

Tony Blair made it clear that he would be prepared to stand up for Britain's interests against France or Germany even if it meant he was in a "minority of one" in the European Union. Page 2

Student vote

John Major is coming under strong pressure from Tory strategists to hold the general election on April 10 to prevent Labour using the student vote to win key marginal seats. Page 2

Shopping revenge

Wives are taking revenge on career-obsessed husbands by turning into compulsive shoppers and running up debts. Page 3

Army graves found

A British Army war grave containing the remains of 25 men has been unearthed near Arras in France. Tens of thousands of allied troops died in the area in the spring of 1917. Page 5

Operation challenge

The power of High Court judges to compel women to undergo surgery is to be challenged in an action by two women forced to have Caesarean sections. Page 6

A hard story to swallow

A Doberman puppy swallowed a 13in kitchen knife and has the X-rays to prove it. While urban mythology abounds with tales of Dobermanns gobbling up burglars' fingers or smaller dogs, Bailey's unprecedented feat of turning canine sword-swallower is beyond doubt, being fully documented and professionally attested. Page 3

Sunday lessons

A school with some of the worst examination results in the country opened for Sunday lessons in an attempt to improve students' performance. Page 6

Bird mystery

An urgent investigation is to be launched into a dramatic and mysterious decline in the number of oystercatchers at the Wash, one of Europe's most important wildlife sites. Page 8

Irish anger

Smouldering anti-English sentiment has ignited in the Irish Republic after an Anglo-Irish treaty failed to win selection to represent the governing Fine Gael party at the next general election. Page 8

British vote doubt

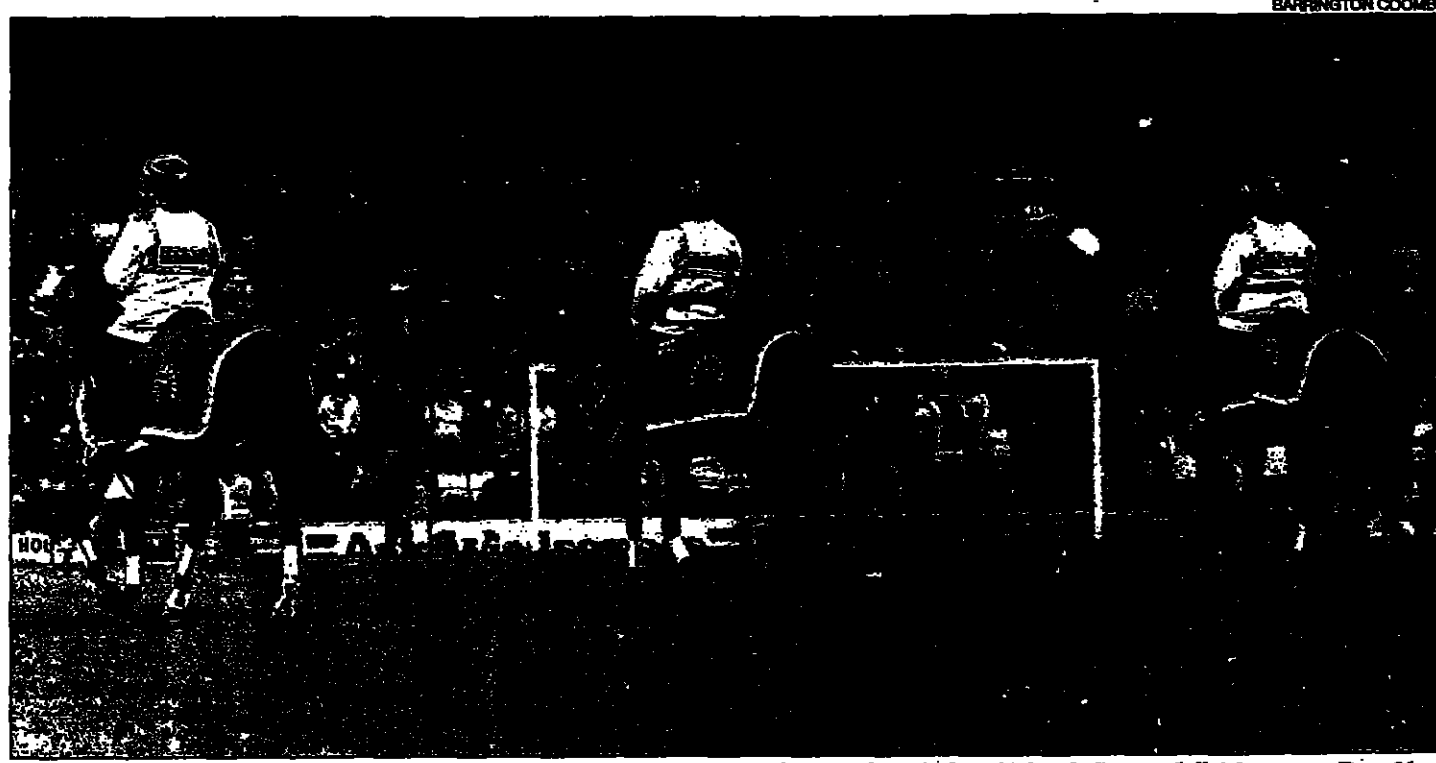
Britain could be cut out of negotiations for a new Maastricht treaty until after the general election under a scheme pressed by several European Union states on the Dutch Government, which assumes the EU presidency on January 1. Page 9

Mandela threat

Winnie Mandela is under the spotlight after the convicted murderer Jerry Richardson, one-time head of her vigilante gang, said that he had lied. Page 10

US plans strikes

The United States has made contingency plans for military strikes against Iran. Page 11



Mounted police patrol the pitch at Ashton Gate after Bristol City and Bristol Rovers fans clashed during their second division game. Page 26

BUSINESS

Aerospace merger: Boeing and McDonnell Douglas are to merge, creating the largest aerospace company in the world, in a deal worth \$13.3 billion. Page 44

Tax campaign: Business leaders are to propose radical reforms to Britain's corporate tax system in an attempt to remove what they see as a clear fiscal bias against investment. Page 44

Britain ahead: The UK economy will grow at a faster rate than all Group of Seven industrialised nations except Canada, according to the OECD. Page 44

Kenwood plea: The besieged board will today ask shareholders to be given more time to restore the fortunes of the troubled maker of domestic appliances. Page 40

ARTS

Violent denial: "On any serious list of the causes of violence, television scarcely merits a mention." Melvyn Bragg points the finger of blame firmly elsewhere. Page 16

Academic overtures: The turmoil at the Royal Academy is over; now there is merely a renewed sense of purpose and a "piddling" deficit, its managers tell Simon Tait. Page 16

Double act: Toronto hosts a financially slugging-match as two huge, dauntingly expensive new musical adaptations open in the space of a few days. Page 17

Beautifully beastly: Loud, gaudy and rich in melodrama, *Beauty and the Beast* opens in Stratford East with fine singing, smart ad-libbing, great costumes and a truly wicked bad fairy. Page 17

Grey matter: Some old people appear to remain lucid while others show clear signs of losing their faculties. Anjana Ahuja on a project to discover why. Page 12

Nigel Hawkes: Everybody knows that skates slide on ice because the surface layer. Except that they don't. Page 12

Nurturing space: Shopping does not always have to be a dehumanising experience. Page 13

Quietly grateful: Juliet Peck, Libby Purves and Giles Coren say what Christmas means to them. Page 14

Michael Gove: The Conservatives should never regard the growth of its social security budget with pride but service pensions should be the exception. Page 15

Cricket: England lost the first one-day international by two wickets in Bulawayo. Page 23

Rugby Union: Wales went down 37-20 to South Africa while England muddled over a poor display against Argentina. Pages 30, 31

Football: Chelsea's hopes of getting among the championship contenders were dealt a heavy blow at Sunderland. Page 27

Athletics: John Brown, from Sheffield, who won the European championship in Charleroi, is the first British man for 21 years to collect a senior international cross-country title. Page 25

Swimming: Susan Rolph, controversially denied a place in the record books, and Mark Foster both won two gold medals for Britain in the European short-course championships in Rostock. Page 25

Skis: Austrians took the first four places in the opening downhill race of the World Cup season at Val d'Isère. Page 25

Snooker: Despite a total clearance of 145, Alain Robidoux, of Canada, was 5-3 down to London Ronnie O'Sullivan in the 17-frame final of the German Open. Page 25

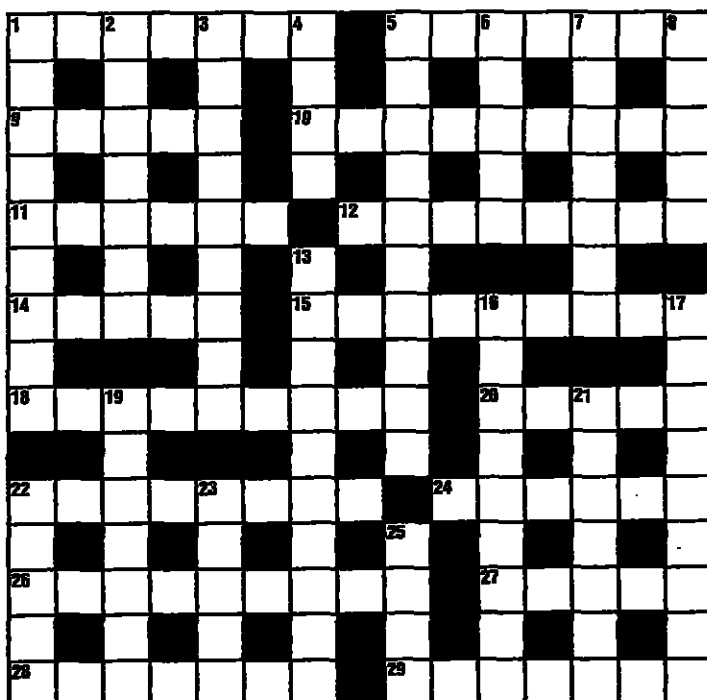
12, 24, 33, 34, 42, 47. Bonus: 44. Seven tickets win £1.3 million; 63 win £4.521 for 5 numbers and the bonus; 1,705 win £1,028 for five numbers; 87,664 win £43 for four; 1,400,000 win £10 for three.

IN THE TIMES

ARTS
Dartmoor inspires the opening exhibition for a revamped West Country gallery

LAW
Should charities be allowed to pursue political activities?

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,352



- ACROSS**
- Take-off makes Bobemian girl weep (7).
 - Noisy rebuke causing consternation (7).
 - In the event, his career is competitive (5).
 - Dejected, having secured nothing, we leave at once (9).
 - Headgear with diamonds that may be covering peak (6).
 - Opera's beginning very loudly! Verdi's fantastic stroke (5-5).
 - Tree outside estate's entrance — one producing resin (5).
 - Dismiss class troublemaker (9).
 - Good-for-nothing refugee finally patriotic (9).
 - Book appears after much delay, though unfinished (5).
 - Closing date for journalists' dull column (8).
 - Make it possible to extract from churchmen a blessing (6).
- DOWN**
- Thanks to the French, not so cruel (9).
 - Weapon officer needed to restrain revolutionary (7).
 - Rumour here? (7).
 - Moor the laugh originally left in centre of pool (7).
 - In which those bawling escape charges? (4-3-3).
 - Correct notice about workers (5).
 - List of plants I had discovered in this state (7).
 - Loyal vassal, say, interrupting false statement (5).
 - Ferry often vandalised? What shameless audacity! (10).
 - Systematically inordinate supporter at laundry (9).
 - Reckless villain's crazy speed on rough road (9).
 - Instrument old group of stars used (7).
 - Broad-minded artist in defamation case (7).
 - Sagacity of husband supporting small part of store (5).
 - Sounds like city guides (5).
 - One overwhelmed by little sibling's liveliness (4).

Times Two Crossword, page 44

LATEST ROAD AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

UK Weather: All regions 0336 444 910
UK Roads: All regions 0336 401 410
Inside M25: 0336 401 746
M25 and Link Roads: 0336 401 748
National Motorways: 0336 401 910
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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 8.01 am Sun sets: 3.52 pm
Moon sets: 11.23 pm Moon rises: 11.40 am

First quarter tomorrow
London 5.52 pm to 8.02 am
Edinburgh 3.26 pm to 8.40 am
Manchester 3.50 pm to 8.21 am
Perthshire 4.20 pm to 8.16 am

FORECAST

General: Western parts of England and Wales should remain cloudy with patchy light rain or drizzle. More eastern districts, and northern England, in particular, should have some brighter spells developing. Elsewhere, generally cloudy.
Northern Ireland and western Scotland cloudy with light rain and drizzle, while more persistent rain across the north slowly pushes clear of the mainland. Eastern Scotland may see some brightness, but Northern Ireland cloudy, with some sleet or snow for Shetland.
London, SE, Cent S, Cent N, E England, E Anglia, Midlands, Channel Isles: Mostly dry but rather cloudy. Wind mostly southerly light to moderate. Max 10 to 12C (45F to 48F).
SW, NW England, Wales, Lakes, IOW, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: Mainly cloudy with patchy rain or drizzle. Wind south to southwesterly becoming southerly light to moderate. Max 10 to 12C (45F to 48F).
NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth: Mostly dry, rather cloudy at first, but brightness developing. Wind southerly moderate to fresh. Max 8C to 9C (46F to 48F).
NE, NW Scotland: Cloudy with light rain at first, becoming mostly dry later. Wind southerly fresh locally strong. Max 8C to 9C (46F to 48F).
Orkney: Cloudy with persistent rain. Wind mostly southerly fresh. Max 5C to 7C (41F to 45F).
Shetland: Cloudy with rain, turning to sleet or snow over hills. Wind easterly fresh to strong. Max 3C to 4C (37F to 39F).
Outlook: Becoming mostly dry but all areas wet on Wednesday.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=brilliant; c=cloudy; dr=drizzle; d=dark storm; ds=drizzle; f=fast; g=gale; h=hail; l=light; m=moderate; s=sunny; w=wind; x=variable; y=very

Area	Sun	Rain	Wind	Temp	Area	Sun	Rain	Wind	Temp
Aberdeen	-	0.02	1050	43	Leicester	-	0.04	0.01	9
Angus	-	0.02	1050	43	Liverpool	-	0.02	0.01	9
Aspinall	-	0.15	8	46	London	-	0.01	0.01	9
Barnsley	-	0.02	1050	43	Manchester	-	0.02	0.01	9
Belfast	-	0.02	1050	43	Margate	-	0.02	0.01	9
Birmingham	-	0.01	9	48	Medford	-	1.0	0.05	10
Bournemouth	-	0.01	9	48	Morecambe	-	0.01	0.01	9
Bristol	-	0.01	9	48	Newcastle	-	0.01	0.01	9
Cardiff	-	0.01	9	48	Norwich	-	0.01	0.01	9
Cheltenham	-	0.01	9	48	Nottingham	-	0.01	0.01	9
Colwyn Bay	-	0.01	9	48	Oldham	-	0.01	0.01	9
Cromer	-	0.01	9	48	Preston	-	0.01	0.01	9
Doncaster	-	0.01	9	48	Rose-Croft	-	0.01	0.01	9
Edinburgh	-	0.01	9	48	Sandwich	-	0.01	0.01	9
Exeter	-	0.01	9	48	Seaton	-	0.01	0.01	9
Farnham	-	0.01	9	48	Sheffield	-	0.01	0.01	9
Gloucester	-	0.01	9	48	Slough	-	0.01	0.01	9
Glasgow	-	0.01	9	48	Stratford	-	0.01	0.01	9
Grimsby	-	0.01	9	48	Swansea	-	0.01	0.01	9
Hastings	-	0.01	9	48	Telford	-	0.01	0.01	9
Hemel Hempstead	-	0.01	9	48	Thames Valley	-	0.01	0.01	9
Hull	-	0.01	9	48	Torquay	-	0.01	0.01	9
Leamington	-	0.01	9	48	Weymouth	-	0.01	0.01	9
Leeds	-	0.01	9	48					

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Bristol	-	0.01	9	48	Newcastle	-	0.01	0.01	9
Cardiff	-	0.01	9	48	Norwich	-	0.01	0.01	9
Cheltenham	-	0.01	9	48	Nottingham	-	0.01	0.01	9
Colwyn Bay	-	0.01	9	48	Oldham	-	0.01	0.01	9
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Doncaster	-	0.01	9	48	Rose-Croft	-	0.01	0.01	9
Edinburgh	-	0.01	9	48	Sandwich	-	0.01	0.01	9
Exeter	-	0.01	9	48	Seaton	-	0.01	0.01	9
Farnham	-	0.01	9	48	Sheffield	-	0.01	0.01	9
Gloucester	-	0.01	9	48	Slough	-	0.01	0.01	9
Glasgow	-	0.01	9	48	Stratford	-	0.01	0.01	9
Grimsby	-	0.01	9	48	Swansea	-	0.01	0.01	9
Hastings	-	0.01	9	48	Telford	-	0.01	0.01	9
Hemel Hempstead	-	0.01	9	48	Thames Valley	-	0.01	0.01	9
Hull	-	0.01	9	48	Torquay	-	0.01	0.01	9
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SW, NW England, Wales, Lakes, IOW, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: Mainly cloudy with patchy rain or drizzle. Wind south to southwesterly becoming southerly light to moderate. Max 10 to 12C (45F to 48F).
NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth: Mostly dry, rather cloudy at first, but brightness developing. Wind southerly moderate to fresh. Max 8C to 9C (46F to 48F).
NE, NW Scotland: Cloudy with light rain at first, becoming mostly dry later. Wind southerly fresh locally strong. Max 8C to 9C (46F to 48F).
Orkney: Cloudy with persistent rain. Wind mostly southerly fresh. Max 5C to 7C (41F to 45F).
Shetland: Cloudy with rain, turning to sleet or snow over hills. Wind easterly fresh to strong. Max 3C to 4C (37F to 39F).
Outlook: Becoming mostly dry but all areas wet on Wednesday.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=brilliant; c=cloudy; dr=drizzle; d=dark storm; ds=drizzle; f=fast; g=gale; h=hail; l=light; m=moderate; s=sunny; w=wind; x=variable; y=very

Area	Sun	Rain	Wind	Temp	Area	Sun	Rain	Wind	Temp
Aberdeen	-	0.02	1050	43	Leicester	-	0.04	0.01	9
Angus	-	0.02	1050	43	Liverpool	-	0.02	0.01	9
Aspinall	-	0.15	8	46	London	-	0.01	0.01	9
Barnsley	-	0.02	1050	43	Manchester	-	0.02	0.01	9
Belfast	-	0.02	1050	43	Margate	-	0.02	0.01	9
Birmingham	-	0.01	9	48	Medford	-	1.0	0.05	10
Bournemouth	-	0.01	9	48	Morecambe	-	0.01	0.01	9
Bristol	-	0.01	9	48	Newcastle	-	0.01	0.01	9
Cardiff	-	0.01	9	48	Norwich	-	0.01	0.01	9
Cheltenham	-	0.01	9	48	Nottingham	-	0.01	0.01	9
Colwyn Bay	-	0.01	9	48	Oldham	-	0.01	0.01	9
Cromer	-	0.01	9	48	Preston	-	0.01	0.01	9
Doncaster	-	0.01	9	48	Rose-Croft	-	0.01	0.01	9
Edinburgh	-	0.01	9	48	Sandwich	-	0.01	0.01	9
Exeter	-	0.01	9	48	Seaton	-	0.01	0.01	9
Farnham	-	0.01	9	48	Sheffield	-	0.01	0.01	9